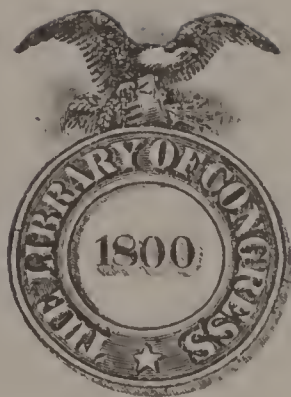




# Gospel Sword Thrusts

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Mark A. Matthews



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## GOSPEL SWORD THRUSTS



# Gospel Sword Thrusts

By

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## FOREWORD

THE sermons contained in this volume were preached in obedience to the Divine command, "Defend the faith delivered once for all to the saints." While delivered for the defense of the faith they had another purpose equally insistent, namely, the grounding and the developing of the saints.

My heart's desire is that the members of the Body of Christ be so thoroughly indoctrinated that it can be said of them, "They are impregnable."

The great need of this hour is doctrinal preaching, and the mastering by the members of the Church of the great fundamental, evangelical doctrines taught in God's infallible Word; because no born-again, thoroughly indoctrinated person ever yields to the influences of or is ever moved by false teachers or teachings.

This volume of sermons called *Gospel Sword Thrusts* is sent forth with the prayer that these purposes may be accomplished.

The book gives our testimony to the essential doctrines, and we pray that each reader will believe, defend, and testify to the same great truths.

M. A. M.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.



# I

## GOD

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*—GENESIS I : I.

**I**N the beginning—*God.*" Around this declaration revolves the conflict. With measured words let me say, it is impossible for any man to be honest with himself and be an atheist, a pantheist, or an agnostic. Psychologically, it is impossible for one to deny the existence of God. Therefore, the reason for the attacks being made upon God, upon Christ, and upon the infallible Bible is to be found in two things:

I. The attack is of Satanic origin.

II. The theories antagonistic to God have been formulated, indirectly it may be, as the result of Satanic influences, and they are determined that those theories shall be sustained. In order to sustain them God must be eliminated. In other words, they have reached the position where they are willing to say: "*No God, no master, no law, no responsibility.*"

These are the two reasons why the battle is so fierce. The rationalistic forces are logically antagonistic to God because their theories are based entirely upon rationalistic concepts. They have

ignored the supernatural. Therefore, they are determined to sustain their rationalistic theories, and in order to sustain them they must destroy every vestige of belief in God, in Christ and in a supernatural revelation. They may deny this, but the logic of their premise drives them to such a conclusion. In fact, the last analysis of the controversy will show that it is not one of diverging, philosophical and theological belief, but one of veracity. It is a question of plain veracity, or it is a question of insanity. Grant that one is sane and that all of his powers are functioning and that he says there is no God, or that the whole conception of God must be put upon a rationalistic basis, then he is a perjurer. You cannot reduce God to the rationalistic basis. If you say, as the Bible teaches, that he who denies there is a God is a fool, then, of course, the controversy ends, because you admit he is not a responsible being.

Paul took the same position when he said every man was without an excuse. Then, if without an excuse one deliberately denies God, or brings God to a rationalistic basis of interpretation, he of course brands himself as a perjurer. It is a question of veracity. This must be admitted when you think of the fact that the consciousness of the existence of God is in the very constitution of being—it is innate. There is no human being on earth whose subconscious soul does not know that God is, and that He is sovereign Lord.



I. "In the beginning *God*." There are no peoples, no tribes, no individuals who are admitted to be sane existing anywhere in the world who do not know that God *is*. Moffat, you remember, challenged that statement, but Livingstone demonstrated that Moffat was wrong. Livingstone demonstrated that Moffat was in error when he said there were those who did not know. There has never existed a people who did not believe in the existence of a Supreme Being. The innate knowledge of God is of supernatural origin. The very existence of the human soul makes it possible for innate knowledge of God to exist. No other form of life, no other being, no other life-unit has a soul.

Why did man have it? Because in that soul was to reside the innate knowledge of the supreme God of this universe, who created all things, and who put man over all lower creations. The soul could not have come into existence by any other process of development or evolution. It is immortal and of supernatural origin—therefore of divine creation. You must destroy the fact that the human family and each individual in it from the beginning to the present moment has been in possession of the innate knowledge of the existence of God, before you can prove there is no God. The fact of this consciousness is an infallible proof of the existence of God. This consciousness could not have come from any other source. If the consciousness

exists, God exists. If God exists, the consciousness is logically in existence. This consciousness is universal. The universality of the consciousness of the existence of God must be destroyed before you can destroy belief in God. In the beginning God created man with this consciousness residing in the immortal soul, breathed into him by Almighty God.

II. You must answer the great doctrine of cause and effect. We stand in the midst of things, surrounded by a wilderness of witnesses. Whence came they? How did they come into existence? What is the cause? Who designed them? You must answer these questions, and present another case before you can destroy belief in God. These things are not of themselves; they are not self-existent. There is no such thing as spontaneous generation of life. When the Psalmist beheld the heavens and the worlds beyond, he cried out, "Thy handiwork." Every world, every planet, and every system of worlds teaches infallibly the existence of a designing, willing, planning, executing creator—God. Adam said it; Job said it; the Psalmist said it; and no thinking, living being has ever looked into the blue dome of the heavens who has not immediately been made conscious of the fact of the existence of God, who planned, designed, created and flung into space every world!

"In the beginning God created." Reasoning from effect back to cause we are compelled to say,



“In the beginning the self-existent God created.” Of course they are trying to destroy that doctrine and that process of reasoning. They are trying to say that the hypothesis of biological evolution is an answer, but they have to bridge a gap of hundreds of thousands of years, and they are compelled to answer the impossible question—is there such a thing as spontaneous generation of life? They cannot answer these questions. Therefore the doctrine of materialistic evolution is antagonistic to God, is a stab at Christ, and detrimental to spiritual growth. “In the beginning God created.” There is no other correct statement of the existence of things.

III. The argument of design. The existence of these things proves the Creator. The movement of the planets proves the designing power of the Creator. God’s plan, God’s design can be understood by a thorough study of the movement of the planets, and worlds, and things. Why day and night, why sunshine and shadow, why dew and rain, why growth and death, why seed-time and harvest, why moon and stars, why planets and worlds moving in perfect harmony according to a fixed and eternal design—why? It could not have been otherwise, because an orderly God, designing and planning, made it so. In the beginning God designed, planned, created and put in perfect harmonious motion the world and all systems of worlds. Just as you look at the watch you may

hold in your hand to read the time and see written on its face the very purpose of the watch and the design of the watchmaker, so you can look into the face of time and into the movements of worlds and see the design of God. There is no conflict in worlds—Why? Because of God's design.

The light of undiscovered planets which has been traveling towards this little globe for centuries is just reaching us. Why wasn't the light lost, and how could it travel through space and time infinite? The answer is GOD, who designed and created and made possible.

IV. In the theological argument of adjustments and relationships we find God. The science of God and His relationship to man is the most interesting study in the world. Who made the adjustment, who created the relationship, and who made possible the permanent connection between God and man? No one would be foolish enough to say that man made them. If they are to exist this relationship and adjustment must be made by a supernatural power. When you eliminate the power and the majesty and grace of God, you are lost. You cannot explain man's relationship to God and God's benevolent, adjusting grace except on the ground of the existence of God, His design, purpose, will and love. Therefore, no man with a conscience, who is honest with himself, can be an atheist or a pantheist.

God is, and our relationship to Him must be the

result of the plan created by Him. It is on that basis that our adjustments must be made. Our very creation and existence proves this argument. We were created in His image. No one was created outside of the image of God, or without the image of God. The very reasoning processes resident in the human being are proof of a reasoning God, and of the fact that we were created in His image. Only God's masterpiece—man—reasons.

The moral doctrine is proof positive of the fact that we were created in His image. There is no moral responsibility governing the law of creation. I care not in what sphere of the animal world you dwell, there is no moral responsibility, no moral turpitude or law governing them. The very existence of a moral government proves God, and the very fact that that moral government applies *only* to man is an infallible proof that he was created in the image of God, and that this moral relationship to God is of supernatural origin.

The biggest word in the world is "ought." Why is there an innate consciousness of "ought"? Because the innate consciousness reveals God, and the subject standing before the supreme sovereign of the universe instantly is brought before the majesty of "ought." There isn't a savage in the world who does not feel something of the pull of the eternal Ought. The individual himself as a separate unit feels his relationship to God, and in

his inmost soul says "I ought." When he comes into the relationship of the family it is more apparent. When he becomes a unit in society it is controlling, and when he comes into spiritual relationship with God it is imperative, and he stands in awe before the majesty of God and says, "I ought to obey God rather than man." The moral government of God leads us to reverence Him, teaches us to worship Him, to obey Him, to love Him. This consciousness is proof of the existence of God, and of the fact that we were created in His image.

V. The great fact of revelation. Divine, infallible revelation proves the existence of God. What is revelation? When we speak of the Bible as being God's infallible Word, His infallible revelation, we should know the meaning of the word "revelation." Revelation means the uncovering of that which exists. Revelation does not create, revelation reveals what is. The Bible does not create God; it does not present a hypothetical view of God; it does not present an hypothesis; it does not make a guess; it reveals that which exists. It tells of God. It reveals the existing will of God concerning mankind. It exposes the hatred of God for sin, and unfolds the love of God for a lost soul. All of these are existing facts. Therefore it is an infallible revelation, because it uncovers an infallible, existing, eternal, everlasting, sovereign God. In the beginning God designed,



God created, God sent forth His Son, God revealed—"in the beginning, God."

No man can destroy his consciousness of God. He cannot efface the image God has planted, nor can he take from creation the design written all over the face of creation. He cannot explain the moral consciousness, nor can he silence the voice of the eternal Ought.

No one has been able to destroy the Bible, the revelation which uncovers God and reveals His will to man. Therefore I believe, and my belief is based upon knowledge, innate knowledge, supernatural knowledge, moral knowledge, experimental knowledge. I believe, and know in whom I believe—the everlasting God, the Triune God, who loved me enough not only to write me a letter, but to send His Son, who indited the letter, who died to save me, arose as the ground of my justification, and has promised to take me to His Father, where we shall dwell together for ever and ever.

"In the beginning God," my sovereign, saving, loving, redeeming God. I believe Him, accept Him, and accept His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. And to every unsaved person I say—believe in God, in Christ, in the Holy Ghost and you are saved instantly.

"In the beginning God," and in the end of my earthly existence I shall go back to God and give an account of the deeds done in the body. Oh, the majesty of my God!

## II

### THE EVERLASTING TRINITY

*“There is but one God.”—I CORINTHIANS 8:6.*

*“Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.”—MATTHEW 28:19.*

**B**ELIEF in the existence of God is universal. You may say the Scriptures presuppose and assume the existence of God. It would be much more logical and truthful to say they recognize the innate, constitutional, universal knowledge of the existence of God. The Scriptures do not try to prove the existence of God. That marvelous fact is self-convincing. It is impossible for any one who thinks and reasons to deny the existence of God. It is stated in Holy Writ, “The fool hath said in his heart there is no God.” There is not a human being in the world, regardless of his status being high or low, who hasn’t the inner consciousness of the existence of God.

Admitting the existence of God, you are confronted with the fact that belief in God involves more than merely accepting the fact of His existence. Belief in God involves belief in Jesus Christ. Belief in God and in Christ compels belief in the Holy Ghost. Therefore, you are face to face with God, Christ and the Holy Ghost. In addition, you

cannot believe in the members of the Trinity without believing in divine revelation. Revelation is absolutely necessary. It may be said without fear of contradiction that revelation is infallible. Revelation is in the nature of God. When you think of God you are compelled to admit revelation. Revelation is in the decree of God, because in the nature of God, not only revelation through creation, but through divine, specific, plenary revelation. In the necessity of the case the Bible had to come, because God's relationship to the members of the Trinity, and the Trinity's relationship to Him could not be revealed in any other way.

It is beyond possibility for one to separate these four great facts: God, Christ, the Holy Ghost, Divine Revelation—God's infallible Book. If you discard the Father you cannot have the Son. If you discard the Son, you cannot have the Holy Ghost. If you discard the Holy Ghost and the Son, you cannot have the Scriptures. Therefore, the Scriptures do not assume the existence of God, but the Scriptures are in the very nature of the case, infallible proofs of the existence of God, and are incapable of separation from God.

In the study of God, you first consider the personality of God. When you begin to study the personality of God you will be compelled to refute the false teachings of all ages. Pantheism immediately rears its head. It states that God is all, and all is God. Such a doctrine, of course, strikes

at the personality of God, denies His creative power, eliminates Christ, and repudiates the Holy Ghost. Such a doctrine is blasphemous, and out of it have emerged all of the cults—Hindu philosophy, pagan evaporations, and every modern form of so-called ethical yet faith-destroying organizations.

Careful reasoning forces one in viewing creation to admit a designing personality. Divine revelation teaches, not only the personality of God, but also the personalities of the 'Trinity. It is impossible to think of God without admitting and thinking of the personality of God. It is impossible to logically think of God without personality. If God could exist without personality, then He would be an object for hatred rather than love. Cursed be the pantheistic idea of God. Any one, it seems to me, with common sense and with a soul retaining a spark of life, would hate a pantheistic God. In studying both creation and revelation you are forced to the conclusion that God is the Creator. In the face of this inevitable conclusion the false teachers speak of the great things, the dynamic force, and the first cause. In so doing they are eliminating the personality of God. If you destroy belief in God's personality and creative power you must destroy the human soul. It could not have come into existence in any way except through the creative act of God. The human soul could not exist if God's personality



be not a fact, and if His creative act did not bring it into existence.

In the book of beginnings it is said “Let *us*.” That is not a mistranslation; it is not a mistaken use of words; the writer did not ignorantly use the plural for the singular. He wrote exactly what God dictated. God said, “Let us make man in our image.” Who constitutes the “us”? What is the “image”?

Again, God uses the same words when He speaks of destroying man’s efforts to build the Tower of Babel. The Word says, “Let *us* go down and there confound their language that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

The Scriptures state that “in the beginning was the Word”—co-equal, coeval, eternal. Yet God says that He is the Father, and Christ the Son. Christ in His Incarnate form stood before the world exhibiting the personality of God. Behind Christ was the personality of the Father. The Scriptures also speak of the personality of the Holy Ghost. To deny the personality of the Holy Ghost is to utter blasphemy. Christ speaks of Him as a person. We are told not to grieve the Holy Spirit, not to quench the Holy Spirit, not to lie to the Holy Spirit. You cannot grieve, nor quench, nor lie to an impersonal thing. Ananias was stricken because he lied to the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost could not have done anything else than strike Ananias dead for the lie he had told, because his

effort to lie to the Holy Ghost when brought face to face with the Third Person of the Trinity was in the nature of a blasphemous denial of His personality and of His right to know all about the transaction under consideration. There was nothing else for the Holy Ghost to do but to strike, and in that way, and through the death of Ananias, the personality, and power, and sovereignty of the Holy Ghost were established beyond question. It was an indispensable act of the Holy Ghost. It was perfectly logical.

These facts present to us the great doctrine of the Trinity. In thinking of the Trinity do not fall into the error of some who state there are three persons—three in one and one in three. The Scriptures do not teach that doctrine. The Bible teaches that there is one Being in three Persons—the eternal, everlasting, self-existent, self-created God, equal in power, substance, personality, and character. When God said, “Let us make man,” He also continued in presenting the co-operating Trinity, and later in the Scriptures stated, “Let us save man.”

In the sixteenth and seventeenth verses of the fourteenth chapter of John you find an epitome of all the verses that might be quoted on the subject. Christ says: “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever.” In the council of the Trinity God said: “I will send my Son that He

may die that man may be saved." "Let us make," "Let us save," "Let us comfort," "Let us gather unto ourselves." Christ said, "Father, thou gavest them," "I have kept them," "I will bring them," "I will come for them that where I am there they may be for ever." "Let us make, let us save, let us comfort, let us gather, let us dwell together for ever."

The doctrine of the Trinity is the most practical doctrine in the Bible. It is essential; it is imperative; because we find that sin means that the law of God has been violated. Only the fool denies the existence of God, and only the fool denies the existence of sin. Sin is the violation of God's law, the non-conformity to God's will, rebellion against God's authority, the denial of God's personality, the refusal to accept God as the sovereign to whom every knee shall bow. Sin is a stubborn fact. How are you going to get rid of it? If it is a violation of God's law, who is to satisfy the law? Who is to save the sinner? Who is to pardon the criminal? How is pardon to be brought about?

You cannot answer these questions. If the Trinity does not exist, if God's personality is not a fact, if Christ is not the eternal Son of God, if the Holy Ghost is not the Third Person of the Trinity, then these questions cannot be answered. You cannot solve the problem of man's responsibility and accountability to God except through pardon. The sinner cannot pay his debt to law, to society,

to God. The very nature of the case demands an intermediary. A bankrupt cannot pay; a dead man cannot pay a debt. Therefore you must put supernatural power into the man if you are going to solve the problem of sin; or, you must admit the existence of the supernatural, Triune God if you are going to establish pardon for the sinner. If the Trinity does not exist, then salvation is impossible. Pardon must be preceded by propitiation. Pardon is not conditioned upon the merit of the criminal, but upon the merit of an intermediary who has satisfied the law for the criminal. God cannot pardon the sinner unless His pardoning act is preceded by the propitiating act satisfying the law of God. Law cannot be merciful, law cannot be lenient, law cannot be forgiving. Law has but one end—justice. Therefore, in the work of salvation the Holy Trinity is involved. Propitiation must precede pardon. The propitiating act must be a supernatural act by a supernatural member of the Trinity. Therefore propitiation must be of God, through Christ. Pardon must be by Almighty God, propitiation must be by Christ, regeneration must be by the Holy Ghost.

The Scriptures plainly teach that the sovereign God exists in three Persons; that the eternal Trinity is in the very nature of God essential in order that salvation may be effective. God the Father, God the Son, co-equal with the Father, standing as the Mediator between God and man, making



propitiation for the sins of man, furnishing the ground on which God offers pardon to a lost soul; God the Holy Ghost must perform the regenerating act.

The doctrine of the Trinity is not an abstract doctrine—a mere theological discussion—it is a necessity. It is the most precious doctrine. Therefore if one denies the Trinity he blasphemes God. If he denies the Holy Ghost, His existence, His power and His personality and His work, he commits the unpardonable sin. He who rejects the deity of the second paraclete, the Holy Ghost, is beyond the power of God to save.

The vicarious sacrifice of Christ makes it possible for God to pardon. The Holy Ghost applies the blood of Jesus Christ and regenerates, creates the soul a new creature in Christ Jesus, and baptizes it into the body of Christ. Therefore the doctrine of the Trinity, the fact of the Trinity, the glorious experience of the Trinity are to the sinner more precious than all other facts.

Because of these facts the forces of evil are making their attacks upon the members of the Trinity. They attack the deity of Christ because in doing so they are repudiating God. If belief in the deity of Christ can be destroyed, then they have successfully attacked the Trinity. If Christ is not God, there is no Trinity. If the Trinity does not exist there are no infallible Scriptures. They know these facts as thoroughly as you understand

them. If they can break down belief in Christ and His vicarious atonement, then they can set up the doctrine of evolution, of environment, of redemption through character or any other subterfuge for salvation. You can see the importance of Christ to the whole doctrine of the Trinity. You cannot separate the members of the Trinity. You cannot accept God and reject the other members of the Trinity because they are inseparable. Christ said, "I and my Father are one." He furthermore stated that mere belief in God and His existence was not sufficient. "Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me." You cannot accept Christ and reject the Holy Ghost, because Christ and the Holy Ghost are equal. You cannot have regeneration if the Holy Ghost does not exist. Christ furnishes the blood, the Holy Ghost applies and regenerates.

When at last, in that heavenly home, you stand before Christ clothed in the corporate body in which He arose from the dead and ascended into heaven, you will then and there see God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost in the person of Jesus Christ.

You cannot reject Christ and be saved. You cannot repudiate the Holy Ghost and be regenerated. You cannot disbelieve in Christ and in the Holy Ghost and be pardoned. There is no salvation outside of the Trinity. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou art saved, because in that

act of belief God pardons, Jesus Christ redeems, and the Holy Ghost regenerates. All three members of the one sovereign God, performing their respective parts brings the new soul into existence as a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Will you accept Christ? There is no other way by which the Triune God can save you if you refuse. Salvation is instantaneous, perfect and efficient if you do accept Him. Let me urge you to take Him as your Savior, make your public confession of Jesus Christ.

### III

## THE THREEFOLD PROGRAM OF THE TRINITY

*“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”—JOHN 14:26.*

**I** ASK you to carefully read, and study the fourteenth chapter of John. It is the most superficially read chapter in the Bible. As the key-verse I ask you to study the twenty-sixth. First of all, the chapter testifies to the existence of the Trinity. Secondly, it testifies to the unity of the Godhead. Thirdly, it testifies to the personality of the members of the Trinity. Fourthly, to the work, not only of the Trinity, working in unison, but also to the work performed by each member of the Trinity. Fifthly, its declaration that belief in the Trinity is essential. We hear so much about what is essential and what is not, it is well for us to listen to the standard authority—God’s Word. Sixthly, the chapter testifies to the infallibility of the Scriptures. Seventhly, it testifies to the supreme work of the Trinity at the present time. These divisions will, perhaps, give you a superficial



estimate of the scope of the chapter, and the key, the twenty-sixth verse, will enable you to unfold the chapter.

There are three divisions in the three-fold program of the Trinity—the program for today, the program for tomorrow, and the program for the future. In other words, what the Trinity is doing now, and will continue to do until the Rapture; what the Trinity will do after the Rapture, between the period of the Rapture and the end of the Millennium; and, what after the end of the Millennium and throughout eternity.

I come, first, to the program of today. But first permit me to tell you of some of the things God is not doing, so that you may distinguish between the false teaching so rampant today, and the true Gospel.

I. God is not creating anything. The period of creation ended some time ago. God is not in the business of making worlds, of creating species, of bringing new life into existence. God finished the work of creation and rested from His labors. Not that God ceased to work; but He ceased to do *that* kind of work is the statement of Holy Writ.

II. God is not writing new revelations. The Book of Revelation is closed. There has not been a line added to the Scripture, nor a new sentence revealed by the Holy Ghost since the inspired record was finished. Nor will God ever make another revelation, either in this or the two succeed-

ing periods. God has thrown away His pen; He has ceased to write; there are no more manuscripts to be prepared by Him.

III. God is doing but one thing today, namely, saving souls. That is all He is doing, all He is going to do. That is now His supreme business.

There are three supernatural Persons—the three Persons of the Trinity—engaged in this work. They are the supreme architects of the soul in its origination. They are the redeemers of the soul, the life and the body. They have prepared a home, and a state of labor, progress and development in that everlasting home.

This chapter (fourteenth chapter of John) teaches that belief in the Trinity is essential, and it also reveals that the whole truth of that statement revolves around Jesus Christ. In the opening sentence of it Jesus said, “Ye believe in God.” That is inevitable; you cannot avoid it; you cannot escape it. There is only one way for man to escape believing in the existence of God, and that is to be born a fool. When any man of normal intellect, and normal in every other way, says he does not believe in the existence of God, then he perjures himself; and, the very denial is proof of the existence of God, for you cannot deny that which does not exist. But, Christ says, “You believe in God for two other reasons, not because of His existence only, but because of His benevolence, and because of His love, and because of His provision

for you.” Those are things coming out of the general providence of God, that everyone inherits because he is a human being.

But Christ states a more significant fact: “You believe in God, then you must believe in me, if you are going to have the benefits, the everlasting, saving benefits of the existence, mercy and love of God.” In other words, this wonderful chapter teaches that the love of God is suspended at a certain height above the individual, and the individual will never come into the benefits of that love other than those that general Providence bestows on both the wicked and the saved, such as life, air, light, sleep, opportunity, food. They have nothing to do with the salvation of man, have no relationship to the soul and should never be taken into consideration when talking about God’s work for the individual. The soul-saving power of God is suspended above the individual, and there is no way by which the connection can be made between God and the individual except through the Mediator, Christ. Christ says, “You will never be connected with God unless that connection is made through Me. You believe in God; therefore, if the existence, the love, the power, the mercy, the goodness and the saving qualities of God are to be yours, they are to come from God, through Me, administered by Me, and distributed by Me.”

He states another fact: “I am going away. I

am going back to the Father; but, I am not going to leave you without a representative—a Comforter.” There are three definitions for the word “Comforter.” First, as one great branch of the Church says, “The second Paraclete,” simply, Comforter. The second is “Teacher.” The third, “Advocate.” Fourth, or rather the first repeated, plain “Comforter.”

I am talking, now, about what God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost are doing now. They are operating, not individually nor directly in their separate entity, but jointly through the Holy Ghost. In other words, the Father is not ignoring the other members of the Trinity in bestowing benevolences. Jesus Christ is not ignoring the other members of the Trinity in saving souls. The Holy Ghost is the directly appointed executive of the Trinity in the world, doing the work of the Trinity in the salvation of souls. God does not speak to any one except through the Holy Ghost.

Let us take another step: The whole question of the deity of the Trinity, is centered in the deity of Christ. Jesus, the eternal Son of God, who is one with the Father, is God. And when you have admitted that, you have admitted the existence of the Trinity, the deity of the Trinity, and the work of the Trinity. That is the reason, the sole reason, why those who do not believe in Christ are attacking the Trinity. They have no reason to make an attack on the Trinity, except to break down Christ.



They have no reason to attack Christ except to destroy His deity. There is not a man on earth making an attack on Christ because He is a man; nor is there a man on earth denying the existence of the human Christ. There is not an infidel on earth, there is not a man sufficiently inane to deny the stubborn, irrefutable facts of history. Therefore, every one who makes an attack on Christ is making it in order to destroy belief in His deity. If He be God, the Trinity is God, and His vicarious atonement is the established route back to God. There is no other way back to Him.

Now, what does Jesus say? He says, that the supreme business of the Trinity is to save the immortal soul. Think about that statement for a minute. What does it mean? If you can think in comprehensive terms of God, and if you can begin to think of Christ as God, and the Holy Ghost as God, and of the marvelous work God has done in creation—the marvelous and incomprehensible things He has done—then you can see what it means for the members of the Trinity to make the saving of the soul their supreme business.

But, as you are a superficial listener, you say to me: "Why doesn't God pick man up and save him?" Because, God created him a free moral agent; he did not develop into it.

Had man developed into a free moral agent, God might have used some force on him. Had he evolved into a free moral agent God, perhaps,

would have used some other power. But God created him a free agent, and that is as much a part of the creative work of God as the world itself. Therefore, if God makes the agent free, God is not going to break the reed, though it may be bent with sin and covered with the slime and muck of the pit. That is the reason God does not pick him up—snatch him up—and save him.

God, the sovereign of the universe, expressed His love for a lost soul, not because the soul was lovely, nor because of its righteousness and obedience, but, in spite of its unrighteousness and unloveliness, and in spite of the fact that the soul was damned, God loved it.

What next? This love logically must find expression. Why? Because God is holiness. The holiness of God stands first, His love second, and the expression thereof, third. That love of God had its expression in Christ, the Incarnate Son of God, who was with God, who *was* God, became flesh so that God's love might have tangible, reachable, approachable, corporate form. Some of you say: "Look on a beautiful world, that tells me that God loves me." It does not tell any such thing, except in the general sense of the exercise of God's general providence that made everything lovely for those He loved. But when you say: "Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh, loves me; I can feel Him, touch Him, hear Him, talk to Him, and know how to approach Him," you are

saying something very definite, very much more definite. God the Father begat the Son because He loved the sinner, and He sent the Son into the world for the sake of the sinner. The Son, the second Person of the Trinity, acquiescing, came and died because the sinner's death put out the candle. But Christ's death lit the stars and made the path eternally bright and followable so that the benighted soul might come back to God.

Christ said, "God and I are one, but God can pardon." Remember, Jesus has never had the pardoning power. God has retained the pardoning power. Christ said, "God cannot pardon unless there is propitiation. It is God's province to pardon; it is mine to propitiate." Working together beautifully, aren't they?

Here is God, in vicarious love, suspended above the lost, doomed and damned soul. God cannot, and will not directly make the connection. If the connection is made it must be made by the second Person of the Trinity, and when Jesus fills the gap between the suspended vicarious love of God, God cannot refuse nor withhold pardon from the soul with whom Christ has made the connection.

God is not acting directly in making the connection. That is why Job spake of the talisman and the Psalmist of the propitiator. Christ spoke of the fact: "No man cometh to the Father except by Me"—that is, "except I make the connecting link."

Well, now, what has the Holy Ghost to do with

all this? Christ said, "I have finished this work; I am going back to the Father, but I am not going to leave you comfortless." Oh, how desolate and disconsolate the world would have been if Jesus had gone back and left it without some member of the Trinity! "I will not leave you comfortless," He said, but He did not say He was going to send the Comforter. What He *did* say was: "I will ask the Father." Why? Because the Father is the Provider; Christ is the Propitiator; the Holy Ghost the Comforter. God the Father, the Creator, the Lover; Christ the Executor; the Holy Ghost, the Regenerator.

Now, let us see what the Holy Ghost is doing. First of all, the Holy Ghost is doing the work of teaching. He is not the revealer, in the sense in which you speak of revelation. Frequently I hear people say: "The Holy Ghost has revealed so and so to me." The Holy Ghost has done no such thing. But Christ said, "The Holy Ghost will bring all things to your remembrance." The Holy Ghost, since He took up His abode on earth as the executive of the Trinity, has not uttered one single new thought, nor revealed one single new thing to a soul on earth. Get that clearly. What does He say? He says that He will teach all things that Christ hath said and done. Do you notice where the dividing line comes in? In other words—here is the Bible. You know people everywhere are talking today about its proper interpretation.



There is no man on earth who possesses the right to interpret the Bible, in any other way except that which coincides with the Bible's interpretation of itself. When any one undertakes an interpretation that is not clearly within the interpretation the Bible itself gives, he is outside the confines of his province and outside the range of his power. The Bible, itself, is God's infallible Word, His everlasting standard that cannot be changed. You cannot amend it, subtract from it, nor add to it. It is the standard fixed by Almighty God. God made the standard, and sent the Third Person of the Trinity to be the Teacher thereof. The Bible is the standard; the Holy Ghost is the Teacher; the Holy Ghost is the Advocate.

Advocate of what, of whom? Well, the Holy Ghost is in the world to advocate but one Person, namely, Jesus Christ. There is God the Father, with God the Son at His right hand conveying to the Father the things the Holy Ghost is doing and has done for you and for me—Christ presenting Himself and presenting His own blood and His own vicarious death to the Father as the ground on which the Father can rest pardon. Advocate! Propitiation—as the ground for redemption. What is the Holy Ghost doing? He is representing Christ and advocating Him as the Son of God, to whom I should give my soul in trust, in order that I may be saved.

The Holy Ghost is here as the Advocate of

Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity, who vicariously died, and whose vicarious death is the means by which we can be saved. That is the work of the Holy Ghost. Every man who has offered to him anything other than Jesus Christ, has that person, policy, program or cult submitted to him by an *agent of Antichrist*. Never lose sight of the fact that there are two advocates in the world. One is God, represented by the Third Person of the Trinity. The other is the agent of Antichrist, who is denying Christ and advocating everything else but Christ. Therefore, the Holy Ghost is here saying to you: "Christ died for you. Let Him save you." Satan, in the person of some one else, is saying, "Oh, you don't have to be saved through the blood of Jesus." One is Antichrist, and the other is the Third Person of the Trinity. To whom are you going to listen?

The Third Person of the Trinity is in the world—comforting. What a blessed thought! I am speaking now to those who are saved and have the blessings of His comforting presence. Precious friends, do you need comforting? I do not know how to define adequately the word "Comforter." I frankly admit that it is too big for me. But do you need comforting? Are you peevish, fretful, opinionated, arrogant, self-righteous? Who is going to comfort you? Did you ever have the Holy One pick you up? Did you ever have Him hold you? He will do it if you will let Him. And

at times when you just come through a fierce battle with the enemy of souls, how weary, tired, fretful and exhausted you are! You know something of the awful tension of being in a contest and the exhausting reaction which follows. Well, Christ was in battle, and the Holy Ghost succored and comforted Him; therefore, He will comfort and succor you.

Were you ever lost? If ever a man needs comfort it is when he is lost. And he gets lost by losing the sense of direction. No man was ever lost because the road was not there. And some of you lose your way because you lose your sense of direction, although you may be within a yard or so of the road. You immediately move about around in a circle. Others I would ask this: When you were lost, who picked you up and brought to your remembrance all things that God had done for you? Who gave you the sense of direction? And who began to pray with and talk to you? The Holy Ghost.

The valley and the darkness await us all, down through them we all must walk. But you have never heard of a saint of God *falling* in the valley. There is not a line in Scripture that records a saint ever having fallen in the valley. Some fall down before they reach the valley. Through the antecedent danger they stumble and fall, but through the valley and the shadow of death the Holy Ghost makes the pathway light enough. One by one we

are going home. Yet the voice of comfort, the arms of love, the supernatural support and the everlasting blessing are ours, because God loves, Christ died, and the Holy Ghost advocates.

The purpose and program of the Holy Ghost is to lift you out of the path of hell, to regenerate your soul, to walk through the valley with you, to gather you home. Oh, it is a stupendous task to save a sinner, but Christ died to do so, and all who accept Him may be eternally saved.

## IV

### THE SCARLET LINE

*"Come, now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."*—ISAIAH 1:18.

*"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."*—HEBREWS 9:22.

**I**N the first part of Isaiah the operation of sin and the program of the Gospel are presented. In the chapter from which my first text is taken you have an outline of the conditions which obtained in Judah. The application can be made to each individual and to the whole world. The writer explains that this people had fallen below the status of the animal. The ox recognized his master, had never denied his crib, nor been ungrateful for the provision made for his sustenance. But Judah had forgotten God, or rather had become indifferent to God, had refused to recognize God as sovereign, had refused to admit responsibility and accountability to God. The reason Judah had become indifferent to these great facts was on account of sin. Sin had made the people indifferent, careless, callous and rebellious.



The same effect of sin is seen today. Men have not the ever-controlling consciousness of God's presence and of their accountability to God. The result of sin is to deaden the conscience and destroy the recognition of God and His right to reign.

Let me retrace the scarlet footsteps of sin:

I. Sin entered the human family through the will and affected the whole being. The sorrow of the world began at that point. You next witness the conflict between the two brothers, Cain and Abel, when they were required to offer their sacrifices to Almighty God. Abel recognized his duty and offered the bloody sacrifice. Cain, because of the power of sin over him, rebelled against that command and repudiated the authority of God. Murder was the result.

II. Sin continued its mighty work of destruction. It reached its climax in the world's corruption, viciousness and social putrefaction. It continued its march until the Flood destroyed the corrupt, vicious and licentious social organization. Scientists have never been able to efface the marks of the Flood. They have not been able to erase the water line from the shores of history. Out of that condition there emerged one who believed. Going on down through the ages we see the marks of sin. Between the period of the Flood and the coming of Christ we find the most indescribable condition of harlotry. We find cities buried beneath their own disease, dirt and sin. Where are Nineveh,



Sodom, Gomorrah, and others? Where are ancient Rome and Greece, and the cities of the Middle Ages? Sin finished its work, wrought their destruction, buried them in their graves of corruption. Follow on down through the ages. Witness the fields of carnage, the battles, wars, prejudices, hatreds, strifes, murders, massacres, and you see the footprints of sin all the way. Every step of the way, in every field of carnage, sin has left bloody prints and the ineffaceable marks of destruction.

When Christ, the Son of God, came to strike the deadly blow against the power of sin the world was not ready for Him. It did not welcome Him, had no place where He could be born. When He was born the heavens recognized that the supernatural event had taken place. The demons in hell trembled, sin recognized that the plan for its ultimate destruction had come into existence. Sin's bloody hand was stretched out to destroy the Babe. The same hand that tried to destroy Moses, struck at Jesus. It is still striking at the children of men. Sin knows but one thing—force, destruction, death. Sin has but one objective point—death. Sin makes but one footprint, and that a bloody footprint. From dying Abel to Calvary's brow sin's march across the continent of time has been one long march of blood, of suffering, of death. The scarlet line stretches from the Garden of Eden to Mount Calvary. When Jesus Christ, from His cradle in the manger, started to Calvary, He started

over the bloody tracks of sin. When He surrendered His life on Calvary it was to destroy the power of sin. There was no way to destroy it except with His own blood.

III. Behold sin's crimson march to the land of death and damnation! We have not only the footprints of sin, but also the scarlet line of redemption, vicarious redemption through the supernatural sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Why did Abel sacrifice a lamb? Why were lambs sacrificed by others? Why were bullocks slain? Why was Isaac offered? Why did God prepare a lamb and tell Abraham to sacrifice it? Why the doves, why all the sacrificial offerings? Why did they kill, spill blood and offer the meat as a holy sacrifice? There is but one answer. God was teaching the doctrine of the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus Christ. There was no vicariousness in the slain bullock or lamb. They were the prototypes of Christ and of the sacrifice He was to make. The reason they were sacrificed was to bring to the attention of the people the bloody tracks of sin and of the coming vicarious sacrifice—the only power to eradicate sin. There was no way by which the blood spilled as the result of sin could be atoned for, except through the blood spilled by Jesus Christ. The only way to change the corrupt blood of human nature was through the use of blood of Jesus Christ. The ruin wrought by sin in the depravity of human blood could be re-

paired only through the redemptive blood of Jesus Christ. The scarlet line of redemption is the line that Jesus Christ has hung along the path of man.

IV. Sin is perfectly logical. It cannot move without the shedding of blood. It is rather strange, then, that people will undertake to circumscribe sin by the processes of environment, education and reformation. Sin cannot be prevented from shedding blood. Sin cannot be atoned for except through the shedding of blood. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. Sin cannot operate unless it destroys. Sin cannot be stopped in its operations except through the constructive power of the blood of Jesus Christ. Consequently, the scarlet line of salvation was provided by Almighty God for the destruction of sin, the redemption of man, and the glorification of the saint.

There is no redemption without the shedding of blood. Speaking reverently, we can truly say, God cannot save except through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. God has selected that way by which He can pardon, redeem and save the immortal soul. It is the only way by which the soul dead in trespasses and sins can be quickened, brought back to life and restored to a position of justification before God. The mere extinction of the life of Christ was not sufficient. Had it been possible for Jesus to have fallen asleep on Calvary, no person could have been saved. If Christ could have defeated

the hour of death, it would have been impossible for God to have saved a soul. God cannot reach the soul except through the blood of Christ; He cannot quicken the soul except by the application of that blood. He cannot bring the lost soul back to Himself except through the regenerating power of the blood of Christ.

When Jesus Christ spilled His blood on Calvary He brought into existence the supernatural apparatus through which the lost soul must go if it becomes a new creature. If one were foolish enough to ask, "Could God have made another plan?" the complete answer to that question is, "That is none of your business." There is only one thing for you to know—He did not make any other plan. He is not going to make any other plan. Therefore, by His own act, He is confined to the plan produced by the vicarious death of Christ. That plan is the plan of the redemptive blood of Christ. Sin buried the soul in the bloody grave of trespasses. Christ quickened the soul and brought it into existence as a redeemed Christian through the application of the redemptive blood. Only the blood of Christ can wash away the blot of sin. Through the redemptive work of Christ sin is not merely covered. It is destroyed, the soul is emancipated, the individual Christian comes into existence a new-born babe in Christ, freed from the power of sin. Jesus Christ did not die to cover my sins. He died to save me from sin, and through His



redemptive, re-creating blood to bring me into existence as an individual unit in Himself.

You ask if the Christian is not covered with the blood of Christ? No, the Christian is the product of the blood of Christ. He is a new creature coming out of the blood of Christ. The Christian is clothed in the habiliments of Christ. Christ makes the capsule in which the Christian lives, just as the Holy Ghost clothed Gideon with Himself, so Christ applies the blood and brings the Christian into existence. The Christian is imbedded in Christ, Christ is in and over the Christian. The Holy Ghost regenerates you, baptizes you into the body of Christ. The Holy Ghost takes up His abode in you, and through the Holy Ghost Jesus Christ operates and directs you. You are clothed upon with the form of Christ, and there resides in you the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. That is salvation. That kind of salvation is impossible except through the blood of Christ. That blood could not have been applied had Christ not died.

We have traced the bloody footprints of sin from the Garden of Eden to Calvary's brow. The scarlet line of redemption runs through all of the prototypes, comes into its glory in Christ's sacrifice, and is manifested throughout the life of the Christian and the period of the Church. Come to the Holy Communion Table and see the emblems, witness the scarlet cord. In the scarlet drops of the juice of the grape you see the emblem of the everlasting,

saving blood of Jesus Christ. In the Holy Communion you hear Him say, "Do this in remembrance of me till I come again." This scarlet cord running through the prototypes, manifested in Christ, typified in the Holy Communion, reaches to the very throne of God, and along this line Christ will come again to manifest Himself and show the scarred hands with which the scarlet line was tied to a lost soul, and by which that lost soul was lifted back to God.

When Christ comes to reign supreme He will strike the final blow destroying the works of the devil and driving Satan and sin into the everlasting hell prepared for the devil and his angels. At that hour the blood of God spilled by Christ will strike the fatal blow and sin will be destroyed, its bloody footprints effaced, and the scarlet cord of redemption will make the necklace of glory hanging from the shoulders of every saint. By the power of the blood of Jesus Christ, Satan shall be cast into the pit and the pit eternally sealed, after which there will be no more sin, and no more death. Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity, through His own blood will conquer.

V. After Jesus Christ had risen from the dead He stood by one who would touch Him. He said, "Touch me not. It is not yet time." The reason for that statement was that He had not entered the heavens to present His blood-work to His Father. The scarlet cord running through the prototypes,



manifested by Christ, seen in the Holy Communion, had to find its last resting place at the right hand of God.

The ascension of Christ was absolutely necessary in order that Christ might present His blood spilled for the redemption of man. When Christ presented to God, His Father, His sacrifice of blood, He in effect said, "My Father, I have accomplished the redemption. Here is my blood spilled to satisfy the law and eternal justice. It is a sufficient reason and ground for you to proclaim the redeemed soul justified. I present my blood sacrificed for whoever accepts me as your reason for accepting that man and proclaiming him just and giving him a position before you which can never be affected by sin." Christ, in effect, said, "My blood has washed, regenerated, created, and brought into existence a child against whom you have no charge."

Christ is the Mediator, sitting at the right hand of God, holding ever in the presence of God His blood as the ground for the everlasting justification of the man who accepts His vicarious death as God's means of salvation. That is supernatural salvation.

How silly it is for men to say, "Quit your meanness and do right." That suggestion was presented in the sixteenth and seventeenth chapters of Isaiah. Through the prophet God said, "Come now, let us reason together; though your sins be as

scarlet, they shall be washed in the blood of the Son, and you shall be made as white as snow." It is impossible for resolutions, rituals, the blood of bullocks and the sacrifices of lambs to effect human reformation. It is not reformation the world needs. It is regeneration. There is no way by which regeneration can be effected except by the quickening, regenerating power of the blood of Jesus Christ. That is salvation.

You cannot save yourselves. There is no human power or agency whereby your salvation can be effected. There is no way by which you can escape the bloody footprints of sin, except through the redemptive blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation, the only sacrifice that God will accept.

## V

### THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS

*“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”—ISAIAH 40:3.*

*“Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.”—MALACHI 3:1.*

*“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”—ISAIAH 7:14.*

THE most important subject that could possibly be discussed is the Virgin Birth of Jesus. It is the battle ground of belief, and within the confines of its discussion are to be found two contending forces—the enemies of God, and the children of God.

The enemies of God are making an attack upon the Virgin Birth, they are trying to discredit the records. It produces confusion in the minds of the people, and prevents them from accepting, believing in and being benefited by this great truth.

God's children know, experimentally as well as historically, the truth of the doctrine. They have experienced its blessedness, and are not shaken in their faith nor in their conception of the truth.

You ask, why is it the battle ground and why is it so important? It is not important to the saint, you might say, because he is redeemed; but, it *is* important to the saint in his message to the lost world; and it is absolutely essential to the unsaved man because he cannot be saved if the Virgin Birth is not true. If the statements as to the birth of Jesus are not infallible, and if He were not born of a virgin, then it is impossible for one to be saved. Therefore, the whole plan of salvation is involved, and the salvation of men is at stake in this fight. I am very glad the fight is on; that the battle is raging, because, in the days gone by, while we were asleep Satan sowed tares in Christendom, and there are those in the visible organization, known as the church militant, who are unsaved. They are, no doubt, rationalists, direct agents of Satan. If they want to fight God, and if this doctrine is the battleground, then, when we have finished with them, if they have any conscience at all, we hope they will leave the visible ecclesiastical organizations and go out into the world into the synagogue of Satan and stay there, for they most assuredly have no place in the real Church of Jesus Christ.

Now, there are two great truths that must be taken into consideration in discussing the Virgin Birth of Jesus: First, it is prophetically stated. Secondly, it is historically stated.

In the Old Testament it is prophetically stated, prophetically outlined, prophetically promised, and

prophetically determined. Now, let us see if that is true. One great writer on the subject has said that God put this prophetic truth as a blazing star between the Cherubim when our first parents were driven out of the Garden. Prophetic utterance states that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head. That is a prophetic statement of fact, and promise. It must come true or fall of its own weakness. Is it false, or is it a fact—which? Will it be possible for the seed of woman? Which woman? is the great question. We find prophecy begins to define which woman—not only the seed of woman, but the seed of Abraham. Prophetic utterance says the seed of woman, the seed of Abraham; the seed of Isaac. And then the line begins to lengthen. We find that Isaac had two sons, and we wonder through which one this prophetic truth is to come. Scripture states it shall be the seed of Jacob.

Again, we find that there must be more explanation, because Jacob had more than one son, and we find that it must be through the seed of Judah, the fourth son. We get a little closer, and there must be another definition. It must come through the seed of Judah, through the seed of David, that this seed of the woman must come in unbroken line and through this royal family in unbroken steps. And in these unbroken steps, and through this unbroken line prophetic history, prophetic promise and prophetic truth portray that He



must come through this regal family, and from Him this royalty will never depart.

The divine heir who is to be born must be born in Bethlehem—Bethlehem of Judah and of David. This was the divinely selected spot. He must have His forerunner; and He must be called Immanuel, which when literally interpreted means, “God with Us—Divine-Human Being.” That is the meaning of Immanuel—Divine-Human.

Those prophetic utterances are there, and no Jew on earth can deny them, and no one who can read history can deny them—they are there. Well, they must be there for a definite reason. They must have been placed there by Almighty God. They were supernaturally written, they reveal a supernatural face and a supernatural line, for the purpose of bringing a supernatural person into existence. What are you going to do with such prophetic utterances? Prophecy, infallible prophecy, states that a virgin shall give birth to this person I have outlined in this line of genealogy. What are you going to do with it? You cannot destroy it. Some men have tried to. They begin, as one great writer has said, by saying that it is one of the most unscientific statements ever made. Why? Because it is in violation of all formulas, doctrines, etc., that can be taught. Now is it possible for this individual to come into existence with only a mother? We grant, for the sake of argument, that it is just exactly as they say—the most

marvelous statement ever made and the most marvelous fact ever announced. But Scripture does not state that Jesus Christ was without a father. All history recognizes Mary as the mother. The battle is around the question of the Fatherhood of Jesus Christ.

The scientific world says to speak of the Virgin Birth is to speak of an unscientific fact. We frankly say to you that, so far as the scientific method is concerned, it does contradict it. But that is not the reason He is of virgin birth. Thank God it is an unscientific fact in the language in which you use the term. You have proved the case. But Scripture, my friends, does not so state it. You say it is unthinkable, as certain writers have said it is, that one child could come into existence without a father. Scripture does not say that He came without a Father. Scripture specifically states who the Father is. But, you say, this doctrine we are now discussing is a *useless doctrine*. It is the most important doctrine ever presented to the people. Why? First of all, the credibility of Scripture rests on this doctrine. The whole question of the credibility of Scripture rests on this doctrine. Why? Prophetic utterances state that He would come in the line of which I have spoken. Prophetic utterances state He would come of a virgin; prophetic utterances said He would have a forerunner; prophetic utterances said He would be born in Bethlehem; prophetic utterances said He

would be called Immanuel. Now is that true, or is it false? If it is true, then all Scripture stands as the infallible Word of God. If it is false, the whole Bible is false. Is that not important?

Again, some one has said the Scripture does not announce His paternal side. Scripture does nothing else but announce it. What does Scripture say? It says that He is the Son of God; states, all the way through, that He will be born of a virgin and will be the Son of God. Scripture announced His Father's side. Scripture stated that the Holy Ghost conceived His body in the womb of the Virgin. But, you say again, that Scripture seems to contradict. Luke traces His genealogy through the mother. Matthew traces it through the father. Matthew speaks of the legal father in legal terms of the census, and speaks of Joseph back through the line I have mentioned—all the way back. Luke speaks of it through Mary, David, and all the way back. But, one critic has said, there seems to be a question. Well, when Joseph is mentioned in one place as having two fathers, Matthew names the father that begat him and his father-in-law. Luke traces through Mary and recognizes the son-in-law position. Scripture mentions both. Why? In order that it might be possible for anyone to trace the genealogy of Christ. Scripture states the relationship of Joseph as a son begotten and a son-in-law, but nowhere does Scripture speak of Joseph as being the father of Jesus Christ. There is not a

line in Scripture that has ever intimated that Joseph is His father. But, every line speaks of Mary as the mother. What else? Every line in Scripture in which the statement is made speaks of God as being the Father of Jesus Christ. Not only did God say that He was the Father, but He never said or intimated anything else. Why did not God on the day of the baptism say: "He is the son of Joseph, in whom I am well pleased?" Scripture speaks of the only-begotten Son of God, the first-begotten Son of God.

Again: Jesus Christ at no time mentioned, or in any way intimated that He was the son of Joseph. He says He is the Son of God, and never intimates anything else. There is not a single line anywhere in Holy Writ indicating that Joseph ever claimed to be the father of Jesus Christ.

Some one is going to say—has already said—did not Christ say that He was the Son of Man? Yes; doesn't Scripture say that He was the Son of man? Is it not admitted that He is the Son of man? But, it does not say any specific man. Why? And why does Jesus speak of Himself as the Son of Man and the Son of God? Is it possible for one to be the Son of man and the Son of God at the same time? Yes, if the Virgin Birth be a fact. That is the only way by which one can be the Son of man and the Son of God at the same time. But how? He must have a divine father and a human mother, and, by having a divine Father and a



human mother He is the Son of God and the Son of man. How? By that process which Scripture shows forth—that like begets like. Is that not true? Is it not possible if God touched the earth and made Adam, and touched Adam and made Eve, that the sovereign God of this universe could touch the womb of the Virgin and conceive the body of Jesus Christ? That is the only way it could be possible for Him to be the Son of God and the Son of man at the same time. When you speak of the Virgin Birth you are speaking of the great plan, for that is the way of the Incarnation. But, some one is going to say: “Then Jesus Christ did not come by generation.” He did not. He came by the extraordinary process of divine conception—conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Now turn back to the question of the importance of this great doctrine. On the fact of the Virgin Birth rests the credibility of Scripture. On the fact of the Virgin Birth rests the sinlessness of Christ. If you are going to bring Christ into existence with a human father and mother, if Incarnation is to come about by the natural process of generation, then the Son of man must come with a sinful body. But, being of a divine Father and a human mother, His body being by divine conception and not by generation, He takes on Himself the human form without inheriting by generation, the sinfulness of nature. If He had inherited, then He could not have assumed sin.



Again: the Virgin Birth of Christ makes it possible for Christ to be the Redeemer, and, it was impossible for a human being to be the Redeemer. The Epistle to the Hebrews states that He was clothed with human form, that He was made flesh, that it was conceived for Him for the purpose and in order that He, the Son of God, might redeem men. There could have been no redemption if the Virgin Birth had not occurred. Oh, that precious truth! That God conceived for Him a body that He might come into existence, born of a virgin, free from sin, and that He might stand before God possessing divine nature and offer sacrifice sufficient that men might be redeemed. Only God could suffer for you sufficiently to redeem you from sin. Only God in human form, incarnated by the conceiving power of the Holy Ghost, could vicariously die for you. So, not only is the credibility of Scripture resting on the truth, but the redemptive work of Christ is resting on this truth. The sinlessness of Christ and His vicarious death rest on the truth of the Virgin Birth. Is it not worth fighting for?

Extraordinary? Yes. It could not have been ordinary. Of divine origin, Christ could not have been merely human. Oh, it could not have been otherwise. The everlasting Son of God was born of the Virgin that He might take on Himself our form and in that form die for us in order that we might live in *His* divine form for ever and ever.

Oh, this blessed Christ, our everlasting Redeemer, is doubly precious because of this fact. Will you take Him as your Savior? He is yours if you will accept Him. He came to save you. The supernatural Son of God, supernaturally incarnated, supernaturally sacrificed, supernaturally raised, is supernaturally coming, will supernaturally gather you unto Himself, because He is the Son of God. Will you take Him? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

## VI

### CHRIST, THE SUM OF ALL THINGS

*“And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering.”—GENESIS 22:8.*

LET us think of Christ, trace a few of His steps, consider some of His manifestations, recite some of the things He did, some He is doing, and some He will do, in order that we may focus our minds on Him—the sum of all things, the Lamb prepared by Almighty God. In thus thinking of Him we will be led away from men who are trying to discredit Him and make the world believe He is not the Son of God. You ask, and that reasonably—“Why are they trying to discredit Christ?” There is but one answer: They are the agents of Satan. He is trying to discredit Christ; he is striking at Him all the while. His agents, under his direction, are doing everything in their power to discredit Him, too.

It is *our* business to present Christ, the Lamb prepared by Almighty God for the salvation of the world. When Abraham said to his son, “God will provide for himself a lamb for the burnt offering,” he gave utterance to the fact on which rests everything concerning our salvation. Christ is the Lamb, God prepared Him, and that preparation

was made in the eternal counsels of the Trinity. Let us consider the steps in the preparation:

I. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, had an existence prior to His coming to earth robed in human flesh. He existed coevally and co-equally with God, was a member of the eternal council of the Trinity, and in that council was a party to the preparation which brought Him into existence as the Lamb of God to be slain for the redemption of man. Christ was with God, and was equal to God, and as one of the Trinity, determined the eternal decree of God, acquiesced in the plan and became, under its terms, the Lamb of God, prepared for the redemption of the world.

The Scriptures state that before the foundations of the world were laid Jesus was thinking of mankind. In the marvelous activities of the Trinity, the work of creating all things was assigned to Jesus Christ. All things were made by Him, nor was anything made without Him. He made all worlds, and all things in all worlds. He made you and me, and He made all things to accomplish His definite purposes and manifested in His handiwork His creative power.

II. Christ revealed Himself to us in an infallible revelation. He was not only with God, He *was* God, and became flesh manifesting God—the living, incarnate, eternal Son of God. But before He came He wrote, not only in the sparkling stars, running brooks, blazing suns and blushing flowers,

but He wrote by plenary inspiration His infallible Word of Divine revelation.

III. In due course of time Christ, the Lamb of God, was sacrificed to redeem men from sin. Through His vicarious sacrifice and death there was provided, delivered and sacrificed the Lamb prepared by Almighty God. Prior to that sacrifice types were in evidence foreshadowing His sacrifice. Not all the blood of bulls and goats slain on Jewish altars could wash away one stain or mark of guilt. Therefore, the eternal Son of God, was incarnated, lived, and surrendered Himself as the God-prepared Lamb to be slain for the redemption of man. When Jesus Christ became the Incarnate Son and started from the cradle to the Cross, from the Cross through the grave back to the right hand of "the majesty on high," He took the successive steps that were in the eternal decree of God, preparing a way whereby a lost soul might come back into its relationship with God as a redeemed unit. Jesus Christ was God's best gift, God's only gift, the sum total of all of God's gifts for man's redemption. Listen to God say, "This is my beloved Son." Listen to Abraham as he says to Isaac, "God will prepare himself a lamb for the burnt offering." No one else will prepare it but Almighty God. It will be of supernatural preparation, of supernatural origin, and will be supernatural in its sacrifice to produce a supernatural redemption. Look into the cradle in yonder



manger and see the answer to Isaac's question, "Father, where is the lamb?" There in the manger-cradle lies the Lamb.

Listen to John the Baptist saying, as he points to Jesus, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world." Look into the face of Christ hanging on yonder tree, and ask yourself the question, "Is there anything else God could do?" and the answer will come back—"There is nothing else." God so loved that He prepared and gave His only Son—not one of His sons; not His son in substitution for some one else, but His only Son, His only gift, His only possible preparation—His only Lamb. There isn't anything else God could do or have done.

Listen to Christ as He says: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." There is no other way, no other door. Listen to Him after He has been placed upon the Cross, the blood streaming from His hands, His feet, His side, proclaiming, "It is finished." The Godhead is exhausted; the only sacrifice has been made; there is nothing else to be done. The work of redemption is complete.

Christ is God's answer to every question. He is the sum total of all things involving the salvation of a soul. He is the finished Lamb, the finished sacrifice, the complete salvation, the eternal glory. They took that precious body from the tree; loving hands wrapped it in garments of love, and buried it. Over the earth settled gloom and darkness. Christ

had said, "I will arise on the third day." The sign of Jonah is the sign of God's eternal promise that the sacrificed Lamb is sufficient unto the resurrection. On that bright, first Easter morning the empty tomb gave a complete answer to prophecy. It was the fulfilment of every promise, the vindication of Christ's sacrifice, and God's answer to the question of immortality and the resurrection of the body. In His resurrection Christ answered the question, "Shall the body live again?" Without the empty tomb, without the hope of the resurrection, it would be impossible for any one to remain sane. Repudiate and deny God's provision for the salvation of man and His provision for the resurrection of the body and you make it possible for insanity to increase and for hopeless gloom to settle over the mind. Tell a fellow creature that he must die like the beast of the field and *remain* dead and why should reason keep its throne? God provided the Lamb on Calvary for the salvation of the soul, and that sacrifice is the fulcrum that lifts the body from the grave and robes it in immortality and eternal light.

IV. Not only did Christ rise from the dead and guarantee the resurrection of every human body in the world, but He told of another preparation. "I am going away to prepare a place for you," He declared. The Lamb, prepared by Almighty God, did not end His work in His one act of sacrifice, but He continued it by providing for the eternal se-

curity of the soul and the preparation for the redeemed's everlasting abode with Himself in heavenly mansions. The sacrifice was not just for the redemption of the soul, it included the redemption of the body, and the preparation of mansions in the Father's house for every one who accepts Christ and the sacrifice He made. Do you ever sit down and contemplate Heaven, and ask yourself what it means to you? It is a place, a locality, definite, fixed and eternal. In it your individuality, your identity are all preserved. The beautiful mansion is your final and everlasting home. You sometimes see a young couple looking for an earthly home, examining different houses, selecting with great care and concern their place of abode. But this is something altogether different. God has prepared the Lamb, who has gone away to prepare your home, to select your special and specific mansion. The title to it is yours; you are absolutely sure of it; there is no doubt about it; no one can prevent you from inhabiting it. What a glorious day it will be when you cross its threshold!

"In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, finish it, mark it and keep it for you." Beautiful home! It will not be long before you enter the mansion prepared by Christ for you. He made it with His own hands for you. Remember, *He made it for you.*

V. Jesus said, "I am coming back for you, and

will gather you unto Myself." While He is away preparing the home, He is also at the right hand of God acting as your mediator, talking to the Father about you, keeping you every day, sending forth the unending stream of His grace, giving you a daily demonstration of His protection, and assuring you of His eternal provision He has made for you. He knows definitely when He is coming for you. He and the Father know. No one else knows. But He is coming. That is enough for us to know. He is coming for us, and He will gather us into our mansions, where He will dwell with us for evermore.

When the soul of the Christian leaves the body it goes immediately home to Christ, and is clothed in a spiritual enswathement and dwells in a spiritual habiliment until the Morning of the Resurrection. When this human body is raised from the dead, a resurrected and glorified body, the soul will again enter it and the entire being becomes an immortal unit and will come back accompanied by Christ, to reign with Him on the earth for a thousand years.

Behold the progressive stages of this great plan: The eternal Son of God was with God; He came to earth, the Incarnate Son of God; on Calvary's hill He was sacrificed as the Lamb of God; He arose from the dead; He ascended to the right hand of the Father; He prepared the home for the redeemed; He is coming back, to gather them unto Himself; they will dwell with Him for ever and



ever. He, the Lamb of God, slain before the foundation of the world, prepared by Almighty God, can do, is doing, and will do for the redemption, the security, and the eternal blessedness of the redeemed everything necessary for complete accomplishment.

Have I, here, told you something about Christ, the Lamb of God? Do you believe in such a Christ? Will you accept Him as your Savior? If you will, all that I have touched upon is yours, and all the glorious benefits are yours. Accept Him, confess Him, unite with His people and enter into His joy, and after a little while you will participate in His glory.



## VII

### THE DISPOSITION OF JESUS

*"What shall I do, then, with Jesus?"*

—MATTHEW 27:22.

PILATE'S question had to be answered by himself. It has to be answered by *every* man for himself, and every woman for herself. It had to be answered by the Jews and Gentiles, by the mob that surrounded Pilate's judgment-seat. Men and women of all nationalities, all individuals of every color, rank, station and condition must answer that question, "What shall I do, then, with Jesus?" Pilate, officially and personally, had to answer it. There was no way by which he could escape it. He endeavored to transfer the responsibility. He washed his hands and asked others to assume his guilt. Yet in his heart he knew that his decision was final. There was no power, human or otherwise, by which he could evade or escape the results of his decision.

The same thing was true of the Jews. They had to answer. They did answer. They assumed the responsibility of the disposition they made of Jesus,, and every wandering Jew on earth, today, is a result of that decision. His blood rested upon them, it rests upon them today. There is no power

in this universe by which that guilt can be washed from their souls, except by the very blood they sacrificed,—the blood of Jesus. The verdict was final; it fell upon them; it rests upon them. There is no power in this universe by which the Jew can be stabilized, organized or nationalized except by and through the blood of Jesus Christ. Every Jew is a living testimony to the effect of the decision made in far-off Jerusalem, centuries ago.

The question is still personal. It must be answered by each individual, not by a nation, not by a mob, but by each separate personality. The question is put to you—"What will you do with Jesus?" and you must put it to your own conscience. "What shall I do, then, with Jesus, the eternal Son of God?" How are you going to answer it?

I. If you undertake to say you will assume the tremendous responsibility of disposing of Jesus, your assumption is beyond your ability. If you mean by that disposition that you classify Him as a man, treat Him as a teacher, a philosopher, look upon Him as the best man the world ever produced, treat Him simply as a human being and set Him to one side as such, you are undertaking to decide something which is beyond human ability to decide. He is God, and cannot be reduced by your decision to the plane of a mere man. Your own words convict you when you say He is the most perfect man who ever lived. Why is He the most

perfect man? Because He was sinless. Why was He sinless? Because He refused to commit sin, or because He was inherently without sin? There is but one answer. He was the eternal Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary. If He was the most perfect man who ever lived it was because He was God. You would have to be God to disprove that He was not God. When you undertake to make Him a mere man, you are undertaking to do something beyond human power.

II. If you undertake to say you will dispose of Jesus by just putting Him out of your thought, you are undertaking an impossibility. You cannot put Jesus out of your thinking. You cannot even take Him out of the dating of your letter, or your daily routine. You cannot dismiss Christ from your thoughts. I care not whether you are the most brilliant man on earth, or whether you live in the jungles of Africa, you cannot dismiss the thought of the existence of God, nor can you, living in a land of civilization and enlightenment, dismiss from your mind Jesus Christ.

III. You may say: "I will have nothing to do with Him. I will wash my hands of Him." Well, you cannot do *that*. He is before you. You cannot make Him leave you; you cannot take Him out of your thought; you cannot take Him out of your vision; you cannot move Him out of your road. He is there. The very fact of your saying you will have nothing to do with Him, is an act whereby

you are undertaking to handle Him, to deal with Him, to come in contact with Him, to dispose of Him. You cannot evade the disposing of Him, and the very act of so doing brings you into direct and vital contact with Him. When you say that you will have nothing to do with Him, you are giving your answer to God, the eternal sovereign of this universe. You are saying to God, "I will have nothing to do with your Son, Jesus Christ."

In that very statement you are taking the place of Christ, and standing before the sovereign God of this universe stripped of all the protecting power of Jesus, and in that position the stone which you have rejected crushes you. God would say to you in answer to that statement that you must then be perfect and keep the law perfectly if you would stand before Him in Christ's stead. But, you are not perfect, and you cannot keep His law. What are you going to do? In that connection let me whisper to you, "Outside of Christ, God is a consuming fire." In other words, every individual who takes his position before God, outside of Christ, stand bare in his own unrighteousness, tainted with sin, cursed with unbelief, and must therefore take the consequences of God's eternal justice and judgment. There is no mercy that can be shown one who rejects Christ. What are you going to do about it?

If you are going to stand on the isolated rock of legality, then you must be perfect. You cannot



mix law and grace. You cannot add so much as the weight of one hair of your head to grace. If you can make any contribution to grace, then it is not grace. No man unaided can keep the law. No one can stand before God. He who rejects Christ must meet the cold, stubborn justice of eternal righteousness.

IV. You ask again, "What shall I do, then, with Jesus?" I reply, there is but one answer you should make—You should say, "He is the everlasting Son of God." You should reply, "I accept Him as my Savior; He came into the world to die for me; He is my Lord; I believe Him to be the Son of God, the Savior of the world; I know that He died and rose again from the dead. I know that He offered Himself for my sins; He is my substitute—born of a virgin, crucified on the Cross, raised from the dead, ascended to the Father, sitting at the right hand of God—HE IS MY SAVIOR." In such an acceptance of Him you have imparted to you His righteousness, you are formed a new creature in Christ Jesus, you come into the position before God of the redeemed. God, having punished Christ for you, can proclaim you just, and through the meritorious work of Christ you are justified. You can then stand before God, in Christ, without fear. Looking into the face of Christ you can, with Him, speak to God and call Him Father.

In that answer you are not disposing of Christ, you are accepting Him. I repeat, there is but one



answer to the question, "What shall I do, then, with Jesus?" and that is, "I accept Him, I believe Him, I trust Him, I love Him, I am His, He is mine, we are one." He was not ashamed of you. Though you were lost in sin, He came to find you. Though you were dead in trespasses, He died that you might be made alive. Though you rejected Him, He rose that you might rise. He loved you, He gave Himself for you, all He asks is that you accept Him. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock," He declares. You cannot drive Him away, you cannot dispose of Him. You can let Him stand at the door of your heart and knock until life is extinct, and having thus refused Him admission, which means that you have rejected Him, you can go into everlasting hell. On the other hand, you can do the sensible thing—you can open the door of your acceptance, you can embrace Him, you can be redeemed by Him, you can have Him in you, and with you, and at last dwell with Him forever.

Jesus prepares a table for you in the presence of your enemies. He comes and prepares a meal for you; He serves you. What are you going to do with Him? Are you going to make one with that mob in front of Pilate and attempt to re-crucify Him, assuming the guilt of that crucifixion, pouring the blood of condemnation upon your own soul? Or, are you going to take Him as the Son of God, the Savior of men? Are you going to

accept Him as your substitute, take His vicarious death as the sufficient answer to the challenge of sin? If you accept Him, He has said, "Confess me before men, and I will confess you before the angels." Listen to Christ as He proclaims through the courts of heaven, "This man who has accepted me as his Savior is now the redeemed of God." Listen to Christ as He introduces you to God, as He talks with the Father about you. What are you going to do with such a Jesus?

What is your attitude towards such a Savior? What is your answer to the question, "What shall I do, then, with Jesus?" I beg you to accept Him. He alone can save you, and in your acceptance His redemption is instantaneous, personal and everlasting.

## VIII

### THE APPROACH OF SATAN

*"And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die."*—GENESIS 3:4.

*"And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."*—2 CORINTHIANS 11:14.

**I**F there is any one who sincerely and truly doubts the existence of Satan, then he, or she, is either mentally incompetent, or he is absolutely ignorant of the existence of the Word of God. How one can doubt the existence of Satan is beyond the comprehension of a reasoning mind.

It is logically impossible for a sane person to doubt the existence of God. If God exists, Satan exists. We know God exists. It is equally certain that Satan exists and that his personality exists. These two stubborn and eternal facts are ever before us: The consciousness of the existence of God, and the persistent fact of the existence of Satan. Man's experience is an infallible proof of the existence of Satan, and no man lives a day without vital and direct contact with him.

Those who are regenerated and in possession of the supernatural power given them in the hour of regeneration are aided by the Holy Ghost to reject and to drive away Satan; but, they have to come

in contact with him before they can defeat him. Satan approaches every one.

There is another stubborn fact: Satan never tempts a wicked man. An unsaved, lost individual is never tempted by Satan, because Satan controls him, directs him, lives in him—Satan has him. Therefore, there is no necessity to tempt him. He could not become any more the subject of Satan if he committed manifold crimes each hour of his life. Therefore, Satan never tempts a wicked man to do a wrong. He directs the wicked to carry out his plans of rejecting God, striking at Christ, repudiating the law and defying the Holy Ghost. But, the acts of the wicked, under the direction of Satan, are all performed as direct attacks upon Christ. The wicked never do wrong as the result of temptation.

Satan operates the unsaved man. The Holy Ghost operates and directs the regenerated man—the Christian. In the soul of the regenerated, born-again Christian the Holy Ghost lives. In the soul of the unsaved, unregenerated, lost man Satan operates. Therefore, I repeat, Satan does not need to tempt the unsaved man. *He simply operates him.*

Satan tempts the righteous man, and if the righteous man yields it is because of the efforts of Satan. He tempts the righteous man in order that he may break down his spiritual influence, destroy his prayer-power and interfere with his communion

with God. Satan tempts the righteous man, the Christian, in order that he may weaken his influence and power on the world.

There are three powers and personalities: (1) The natural, exercised by man in his routine life; (2) The superhuman powers exercised by Satan over man; (3) The supernatural, exercised by Almighty God in His moral government and for the regeneration of man.

We have natural powers, but are confronted with superhuman powers exercised by Satan. We are offered the supernatural powers of Almighty God, manifested in Jesus Christ, through His plan of salvation in order to combat the enemy of our souls.

I am talking, now, about the superhuman power exercised by Satan. This superhuman power comes in direct touch and contact with the individual every day. There isn't any device that Satan cannot create or use; there isn't any strategy known to his superior wisdom that he does not employ, in order that he may attack Christ, destroy the influence of the Christian, and rob him of his power. Satan approaches one from the rear, and attacks him on both flanks. He comes in direct contact with men. He approaches them through the ambitions, through the religious or the æsthetic nature, and always through gates of the soul that are insufficiently guarded and carelessly locked. Satan approaches the gate that is most easily entered.

I. When Eve said to Satan, "We are forbidden



to eat of this fruit. If we eat of it we will die," Satan said, "You shall not surely die." He was entering through the gate of ambition, through the gate of uncontrollable desire to be supreme both in wisdom and power. Satan heard the cry of her soul—"If I could only be as God." Satan replied, "Fear not, you shall not die." All the way down the ages, right to the present moment, he has been trying to get people to deny and disbelieve that sin will produce death. He has been trying to make people believe that facts are not facts, that realities are not realities, that sin is not sin, and that death will not ensue if law is violated. There are large groups of people completely under his control. They are continually saying, "Sin is not sin, it is only a mental action; death is not death, it is only a passing; there is no such place as hell; you cannot die." They are doing exactly what Satan and Eve did back in the Garden of Eden, thousands of years ago. They have made no progress. They are extremely stupid. They are premeditated perjurers when they deny the stubborn fact of sin, the fact of death, and the fact of hell as the abode of the damned. In one's agony, when one cries out for freedom from pain and sickness and sorrow, Satan comes to that open gate and says, "You are not sick; there is no such thing as grief and sorrow." He injects into that suffering soul the virus of the lie that he first told in Eden, lulls it to sleep with the narcotic of perjury, petrifies it into

stoicism, and presents it to the world as the embodiment of the perpetuated perjury of the Garden of Eden.

Satan approaches every one. He did not even spare the Son of God. He came to Him and appealed to His religious nature, begged Him to fall down and worship him, demanded that He tempt God. You are appealed to in the same way. He asks you to magnify the selfish, perpetuate the covetous, bend heaven and earth to satisfy the ease and pleasure of body, of appetite, and of lust. Satan never rests. He is doing his masterpiece of work today in striking at the body of Christ—the Church of God—and in his effort to increase the selfishness of men. There was never a time in the history of the world when selfishness was so rampant as it is today. America is suffering, today, from the most damnable case of selfishness with which she has ever been afflicted. No one has escaped. Selfishness is manifested in every walk of life, in every caste of society, in every home, in every church. Even men who call themselves Christians are being controlled by selfishness, abnormal and unprecedented. They are not willing to surrender the slightest pleasure, exchange chairs, vacate their seats, or give up any comfort. They are grasping, demanding, reaching, in answer to the demands of a Satan-directed selfishness. It has settled down over America; it is even affecting the Church.

II. Satan comes in through the domestic gate—the loosely-guarded domestic gate. No one can explain the present-day condition of affairs on any other hypothesis. The homes of this country are under his control. Parents cannot tell where their children are. They do not know what they are doing. You cannot explain why parents are so indifferent to their children's whereabouts or their welfare, other than by an acknowledgment of the influence and power of Satan. He is saying to parents, "Let your children alone." The voice of the Tempter is listened to, with the result that children are permitted to do all manner of things, parents are neglecting their duties and influence, and travelling avenues today never conceived of entering before in the history of the world.

God does not want twenty-five million boys and girls in America to remain outside the Sunday School. There are that many who never darken the doors of the Sabbath School. It is one of the indications of the power of Satan in the home, paralyzing the domestic arm, destroying discipline, and wrecking domestic government.

III. Satan comes in through the Eye-gate. It is impossible for you to explain by any other hypothesis than the influence and the purposes of Satan why seventy-two per cent. of the films shown on the screens of the moving picture houses of this country are of a questionable character. Why is it that you have on the screen the vilest, most sug-

gestive and seductive characterizations to be found anywhere? Who writes the scenarios, who produces the scenes, who magnifies the evil—who? Certainly not men who love Jesus Christ; certainly not men who are Christians; certainly not men who are interested in the evangelization of the world, in the salvation of children, or in the purification of society. Satan controls those screen presentations, because he hates Christ, because he denies His deity, because he wants to destroy belief in His vicarious death. If he can wreck the souls of children, his purposes have been accomplished. Eye-gate is one of his most effective approaches to the human heart. The vulgar styles in which women dress would never have come into vogue had it not been for the direct influence of Satan—that Eye-gate might be entered, that the lusts might be fed and made to burn, that souls might be damned.

The very screens that I am now referring to, at one time, in the past, entered into a program of presenting in a seductive way White Slave propaganda, and the re-opening of segregated districts. They sent one picture over the country, to be followed by two others, and by a system of agitation. They did not succeed, but they are using seductive measures, today, to break down the laws of propriety, destroy the boundaries of modesty, and send boys and girls adrift into fields of licensed and unbridled physical liberty. I would see my city



burning in ashes before I would permit again the establishment of segregated districts and the recognition by civil authorities of licensed vice. Soft drink establishments and parlors called beautiful, are all the agents of Satan to wreck your child, to debauch and ruin society. Satan comes through the narcotic evil, too, through the alcoholic evil and through the physical evil. Along these lines he approaches every individual. Through all these channels he approaches men and women for the purpose of paralyzing the arm of the Church, capturing our sons and daughters, and destroying the souls of our precious children.

IV. Satan approaches the Christian and asks him to become a pacifist, demands that he cease his strenuous efforts to fight evil. Through this means he desires to cripple the fighting power of Christians. Satan does not desire that an individual be vulgar and pernicious in his meanness. He just desires that he refuse to accept Christ; that he deny His deity; that he refuse to fight for the faith, contend for the right, and struggle to attain personal righteousness.

Satan often comes to us in the form of a famous preacher, or in the robe of a teacher of science, or in the garb of a philanthropist. He sometimes approaches a community in the form of legislation. Take the bills that have been submitted by legislators prohibiting the vaccination of children, the inspection of schools, and the establishment of the



authority of the Health Departments for the correction of diseases. What is the logical result? The people who favor such bills are the people who deny the deity of Christ and His vicarious atonement, deny the existence of sin, sickness and death. They have the legislature enact bills that prohibit the Health Authorities from using quarantine, performing vaccination and in other ways aiding diseased children. If Satan could carry out his purposes, he would legally establish the right of these people to deny the fundamental facts of sin, sickness, death and hell. A man *may* have the right (although I doubt it strongly) to live in the house with his diseased child who is suffering from a malignant and contagious disease without inspection, but he has no right to send that child to the public schools or upon the public streets to come in contact with other children. He has no right to lie about the child's condition and say that the child is not suffering with diphtheria or scarlet fever when the opposite is the case. He has no right to say that there is no such thing as diphtheria, or scarlet fever. He has no right to say the child is not sick and thereby deprive the child of medical aid and of the advantages of scientific treatment. He has no right to write that lie into a bill or put it upon the statute books, and thereby inflict society with a death-dealing disease.

A man has the right to say whether or not a diseased child shall sit down by his child in the public

schools of the land. Satan shall not accomplish his purpose, or in that way spread disease and death over the community. If one has become so callous that he is willing to see his child suffer the agonies of hell, we should not permit him to leave his child in that condition. If Satan has lulled that parent to sleep, a benevolent public should snatch that child from the arms of the sleeping parent and give him the advantage of every discovery of science. Satan would lull to sleep the voting public in order that he might put such infamous bills upon the statute books, because those people who advocate them deny the existence of sin.

Satan desires to come to you in the guise of economy and ask you not to appropriate money for the establishment of institutions to care for the feeble-minded, the aged, the crippled and the incompetent. If you listen to him you will turn the feeble-minded upon the streets, and when they grow older Satan will use them for the commission of crime, the spread of disease, and the increase of murder.

V. Satan approaches the Church and says that religious activity should not be so strenuous; that we should not spend so much time trying to save the unsaved, nor spend so much time and money trying to evangelize the heathen. He suggests that we spend our time, energy and money in social service work, because he knows that social service programs have never saved a soul. Through this

method he tries to paralyze the arm of the Church, weaken her faith, and cut off her avenue of prayer. Why aren't you, as an individual, a personal evangelist? It is because your faith has become weakened, and your prayer-life confused. You are yielding to the temptations of Satan; you are under his influence; you are listening to his seductive teachings; you are indirectly controlled by his power; you are indifferent, careless, negligent, lazy. You come to church on Sunday morning and go through perfunctory worship; you idle away your time through the week; you come back the next Sunday with empty hands, an empty heart, and an empty record because Satan has kept you from being positive, aggressive and successful.

Satan approaches the Christian, tempts him to inactivity, suggests to him lethargy, begs him to refuse to work. Oh, Christian, recognize the power and presence of Satan. Drive him from your presence—crush him. Oh, sinner, there is no relief for you, no emancipation for your soul except through Jesus Christ, who can defeat Satan, and who, at the last, will strike the deadly blow destroying his power. Let me ask you to accept Christ, become a Christian, for only through His supernatural power can you overcome the Evil One. Your Lord is waiting to clothe you with His righteousness and arm you with overcoming power.

## IX

### THE STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE

*“Will a man rob God?”—MALACHI 3:8.*

*“Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”—I CORINTHIANS 4:2.*

“**W**ILL a man rob God?” In this sermon let me indicate several propositions, all of which are principles, rules and doctrines of the stewardship of life.

I. Let me suggest to you the meaning of the word stewardship. What does it involve? What are the things you think of when you hear it? If you are a logical listener, a logical reasoner, you are forced to think of one in authority who can create stewards, or appoint stewards and vest them with responsibility. You are also compelled to think of those who are appointed. What have they been required to do? What authority has been vested in them? Then, of course, your mind turns to the doctrine of stewardship, the sovereign, the subject, the appointment, the one appointed, the duty, the responsibility, the accountability. When you have thought through these things you will either be very much alarmed, or you will become more consecrated, more spiritual, and more powerful than you have ever been before. This doctrine



settles every problem that could be presented to the individual. Do you recognize God as absolute? Do you realize the doctrine of the absolute sovereignty of God? If you do, you will not offend God by talking about other sovereigns; you will not wound your brethren; you will not make infractions of God's law nor of the rights and equities of your associates. You will never stand in a position of rebellion against God; nor will you ever be controlled by greed, avarice, hatred or covetousness, if you recognize His absolute sovereignty over you.

It is impossible for a man to love God as he ought until he comes into vital relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. You cannot love, honor and obey Him unless there is recognition of His sovereignty. Then, when you recognize God's sovereignty, you are going to recognize something else—God's right, God's absolute right, over you, yours and everything you have, or may have.

Here is an illustration: A young man stood before Jesus and said, "I love Thee and I obey the Father's law and respect my relationship to my fellow men." Reduced to common vernacular, Christ answered, "Do you recognize My absolute sovereignty over that which you possess? Will you now voluntarily and willingly cut loose every idea of your proprietary right, and will you then follow Me?" The young man went away sad, convicted, condemned, and, if he never repented, lost. Do you recognize God's absolute sovereignty



over you? If you do, that settles every other question.

The question has been asked, "Why did not the Church prevent the World War? Can the Church prevent another war?" Not as a corporate entity. If the doctrine I am now teaching had been recognized the last colossal tragedy could not have fallen on the world. You cannot have war when the people recognize the sovereignty of God. It would be impossible for the thing that produced the last war to produce another war, if the world would recognize the sovereignty of God. There can be no greed, no avarice, no covetousness, if the sovereignty of God be recognized. You cannot covet that which God possesses. You cannot be greedy if you recognize that God has proprietary right over that which you claim as yours. I challenge any group of men who call themselves business men to successfully contradict that statement.

Now, what is the basis of stewardship? It is the recognition of the sovereignty of God. *He* is supreme. *He* possesses all. *He* created all. *He*, by the second birth, brought you into existence. How did you come into existence? First, as a human entity, by the creative act of God. How did you come into existence as a child of God—as a Christian? By His gift, by His favor, by His sacrifice. You had nothing to do with it. Hence, you are in existence by His favor, by His gift, by His sovereign love. It is a case of the sovereign and His

subject. All that you possess He gave. You do not own one single thing. You cannot claim proprietary right over anything. It is God's, not yours. He gave it to you because of His favor, because of His sovereign grace, because of His love, because of His willingness to dispense to you that which He possesses.

Why do you have it in your possession? That is the thing that brings a man face to face with the test. By the favor of God, of course. But, when He puts it in your possession, what is created? The greatest trust ever imposed: First, because of the character of the sovereign who imposes it; second, because of the purpose of the trust; third, because of the object to be accomplished by the trust.

What does it mean to be a steward? It means you are God's agent, trustee, acting for Him, and not for yourself. That is stewardship. That is the rule that will solve every problem. Do you think there would be any conflict between nations if that rule were practiced? I challenge the world to refute that statement. If the world will adopt the law of stewardship all international problems will be settled in seven minutes. Peace will reign throughout the world if that law is put into practice. The thing that is keeping the earth's cauldron boiling is greed, avarice, jealousy and covetousness. If you could bring the doctrine I am talking about into universal practice, there would be no greed,

none of these things. All international problems can be solved by the adoption of the doctrine of stewardship.

Take the broad question of the stewardship of life. I belong to Him by the grace and sovereign sacrifice of Jesus Christ. I am not my own. Paul said, "Whose I am, and whom I serve." That is the whole question: To whom do you belong? You belong to God through the purchase of Jesus Christ. You serve Him, or you serve some one else. Whom do you serve? You cannot serve Him absolutely unless the doctrine I am preaching is practiced. Does God put a rule before you? Yes. From Abraham and Melchizedek, down to the present day the tithe is the way to bring this doctrine into existence in a practical form. The first tenth belongs to God.

At the very point I am now touching on the decline of the Church begins. Men do not recognize His sovereignty, His right. They undertake to dictate to God what they will give, when they will work, and how they will work. No Christian has the right to do anything of that sort. There is no warrant for it in the Bible. God said, "It is all mine, but, I will collect only the interest. Lay it on the table. I will do with it what ought to be done. Give me one-tenth first." Some one has said, "Why put in the word 'first'?" Therein lies the whole dishonesty of the Church. You have no right to make any calculation about your income.

You cannot figure with the first tenth. You are dishonest if you try it. When you have paid God your debts, then you can look Him in the face and say, "I have paid the interest on the borrowed money." Remember, a steward is a man appointed, entrusted, honored and placed in a position of peculiar power. It is a tremendous responsibility, and faces continually a crucial test.

In the next place, God said, "Give me one-tenth of the capital and one-seventh of the time. Go and evangelize the world." Do you know the reason it has taken us more than nineteen hundred years to evangelize the world is because of the dishonesty of Christians? They have withheld the one-tenth of their income and have robbed God of the one-seventh of their time. Give me one-seventh of the time of the Church devoted absolutely to evangelization and I will evangelize America in one year, and one-tenth of income, and I will evangelize every corner of the world in one year. Then I will show you a Church so alive and so powerful that there will be hallelujahs in every home in America. The reason we are not blessed today with great spiritual power is because the doctrine of stewardship is not recognized and practiced. I challenge you to test it. Someone has said, "I am giving proportionately." God never laid down that doctrine. Only some one who is dodging his obligations ever talks in that way. Christ heard the same doctrine.



There were people bringing their tithes and Christ was watching them. After a while it came to the question of putting in an offering and some began putting in proportionately. Christ said, "This widow hath given more than them all. They have been giving proportionately. She gave her all."

What right have you to say to God that you will proportion your talent and time? Remember, God is the sovereign; you are the subject. You say, "I will go to the Sunday morning service, Sunday afternoon I will do as I please; Sunday night I will stay at home." What right have you to say you will give God so many moments when all of them belong to Him? You would like me to say, "Where are you going to begin to recognize proportionate giving?" My answer is—never with you who are able to give. The scrubwoman who gets \$40.00 a month and takes care of three children should be put in your pew to shame you. She is the standard, not you. Christ said, "That poor widow with all the responsibilities of life upon her shoulders, pours her soul, her life, into the treasury. *She is the standard*, not you." That is what God says about it. Do not tell me you are giving. You are not, by her standard. *She is the standard.*

A man once said to me, "You put so many thousands of dollars into branch schools and churches, what have you to show for it?" In one building alone, one hundred and twenty-five souls saved, and two hundred and forty-six Sunday



School pupils enrolled. I put the gospel of Jesus Christ into a community that had never heard the name of Christ from an organized church before. I put little babes into the arms of the church, young men and young women dedicated to the ministry and foreign fields. The doors of heaven are wide open and the gates of hell closed in that community. Are you satisfied? Oh, you miserly, selfish, dishonest critics. Look at the souls and tell me what you would take for them if they were your children. I have laid the foundation. Tear it up, if you can. No logical man can tear it up. A critic can hurl brickbats at it, but cannot destroy it. You must spend and be spent if you are to succeed in life.

Friends, that is the whole doctrine of Christian stewardship. It is success. Whenever you begin to conserve yourself, you have lost sight of the fact that God is the sovereign. The sovereign is going to take care of you. Do you spend, and is God glorified? You know that is the doctrine to make one successful. I have tried to live it, but at times have failed. I have been tempted by Satan to decide how much to spend and to put the selfish interest to the front. Let me ask you to give the best there is in you to the accomplishment of the task. If you succeed in any of the professions, arts or sciences, you will have to succeed on that basis. There are men sitting before me who are thinking of their personal interests. God never made a

bushel of wheat out of a handful of grain kept in a bin. Except it fall into the ground and die, it will remain alone. That is stewardship. If I could put into you the determination and the courage I am talking about, I could write your name on the blue canopy lighted by the eternal stars. I could scatter the world with sunshine, plant two blades of grass where one is now growing, and produce harmony and peace in every corner of the world.

Listen, young students, never try to conserve yourselves. You are His students. Plunge into your work and practice this doctrine. Do not think it is going to kill you. I would rather you would have succeeded and pleased Him than to have lived seventy years and then stand before Him with empty hands, or arms full of leaves. That is stewardship—the stewardship of life.

And at the last when we get Home and we stand in Christ's presence and He asks the question: "I gave you the talents, what did you do with them?" we shall be able to answer: "Here they are, Lord. All of them multiplied, all of them brought back to Thee." I hear Him say, "Well done, faithful steward. You shall sit with Me on the Eternal Throne."

## X

### CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

*"It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."*—JUDE 3.

**I**T is the duty, the God-created and commanded duty of every Christian redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, to contend for the faith. There are three very significant facts stated in this quoted passage from God's own Word.

First: You are required to *earnestly* contend for the faith. You are not permitted to go about this task in an indifferent, lackadaisical, careless and impersonal way. It is the earnestness born of conviction and controlled by the abiding belief of the eternal truth revealed by the Holy Ghost.

Secondly: You are required to *contend* for the faith delivered to the saints. You are not permitted to compromise, to adjust the faith to the code and programme of unbelief. You are required to contend for it, fight for it, die for it if need be.

Thirdly: The faith is of supernatural origin, created and delivered by Almighty God, and revealed to the Church by the members of the Godhead.

What is this faith requiring such controlling belief, such strenuous efforts and continuous teaching? It is not the product merely of historical facts. It is more than historical facts. It is composed of supernatural facts making supernatural history, which can never be effaced, changed or amended. It is absolute belief in the sovereignty of God, who created all things; an over-mastering belief in Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, very God of very God, born of the Virgin Mary—God Incarnate; the glorious fact of the vicarious, substitutionary death of Jesus Christ, the only means of salvation, the only way by which human nature can be changed, the only process by which one can be born again and formed a new creature in Christ Jesus, the only way by which sin can be atoned for, the only process by which the sinner can be lifted from his lost estate and given a supernatural position in Christ before God; the blessed fact of facts, the supernatural resurrection of Jesus Christ, raised from the dead as an evidence that God had accepted his vicarious atonement as the ground of our justification, for God cannot receive the sinner in a state of justification if Jesus Christ did not vicariously die and supernaturally arise from the dead. His resurrection is the most glorious fact of all, and on it the whole fabric of Christianity rests. The victorious fact of His ascension, His seat at the right hand of God as Mediator, where He now abides and represents the Church. The fact of the



security of the Church, the security of every redeemed soul, and the absolute certainty of that soul's everlasting companionship with Him in the heavenly mansion. The great dynamic fact of His Second Coming. He will come in real, tangible, visible form, in the same body in which He arose from the grave and ascended to the right hand of God. The great fact of God's infallible Word, inspired, vested with supernatural authority—the only Book of authority in the world, our only rule of faith and practice.

The evangelization of the world and the program of the Church rests upon these facts. These supernatural facts, delivered by Almighty God, constitute the faith delivered once for all to the saints. There have been no amendments, no additions, no subtractions from this supernatural faith. It is the creed delivered by Almighty God to those who are born again through the blood of Jesus Christ. There can be no other creed God will sanction, that the Church should hold, or that individuals should teach. All modifications come from the enemies of Christ, the rationalistic enemies of Christ.

Christ is the Son of God, Very Son of Very God, born of the Virgin Mary, or He is not anything. God testifies that He is His Son; that He was born of the Virgin Mary; that He did have a previous eternal existence; that He did die on Calvary for the salvation of sinners; that He did arise



from the dead; He did ascend; He is at the right hand of God; He is coming again. We are required to contend for this faith, to fight for it, to die for it, if need be.

There is another significant fact: The text itself teaches that we cannot contend unless the faith is being attacked, unless the enemies of Christ are hurling their anathemas, unless the forces of Anti-christ are trying to destroy the faith. It is the business of the Church to propagate the faith, to teach it, to do an aggressive piece of work in the line of teaching the faith. If the Church were bending her every energy in teaching the faith, perhaps the enemies of Christ would be put to flight more rapidly. Who brought on the war? The enemies of Christ. Who is bringing on the war within the Church? The enemies of this creed, the enemies of this faith, those who represent the rationalistic forces of the world. Do they expect the born-again, redeemed Christians to sit idly by, while they ruthlessly attack the faith, try to destroy the authority of the Bible, and try to rob Christ of His power and of His vicarious work? They make the attack on Christ and on this creed, and then, with faces covered with manufactured smiles of piety, they say, "We ought to live together in peace and quiet and the Church should not be disturbed." Who disturbed the Church? She was quiet and peaceful, continuing her work of propagating the faith until the enemies of Christ entered

the fold and began to attack the very life of the Son of God.

Those who contend for peace after they have created the disturbance remind one very much of a domestic scene where the affinity, the paramour, comes into the home and says to the loving, faithful wife: "Let us dwell together in peace and quiet; we should not disturb the tranquillity of the domestic circle; let us advocate unity, and in union let us dwell together under this one roof in peace and happiness." Hagar tried it. Others have tried it, but they had to be cast out. There is no room for the affinity in the well-ordered, well-regulated, orthodox, God-loving Christian home. It is just as impossible to have peace in the Church of Jesus Christ when the ecclesiastical affinities try to destroy the integrity and character, and work and power of the Head of the Church. There is no such thing as organic union with heresy and orthodoxy, with Christ and Antichrist, with the rationalistic forces and real Christianity. The Christian is of supernatural origin. He cannot dwell in peace and in unity with one who is of natural origin, who comes of rationalistic parentage. There is no peace; they cannot dwell together. The scene presents trouble, sorrow and contention. It calls for the greatest exercise of faith on the part of Christians the world has ever seen. The battle must be fierce, the contention must be strenuous, the spirit of loyalty must be perfect, and the

Church must be in incessant prayer. No move should be made that is not the result of incessant prayer.

Let every true Christian, every born-again child of God, remember that the gates of hell shall not prevail against the Church. She shall triumph. The affinity and her rationalistic children shall be cast out. The Church shall be preserved, protected, and at last gathered into her everlasting home with Christ.

Awake, Christians, and defend the faith. It is your God-decreed duty.

## XI

### THE INFALLIBLE TEST

*“And ye are witnesses of these things.”*

—LUKE 24:48.

*“Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God.”—I JOHN 4:2-3.*

THE text taken from Luke is part of a statement of fact—the fact that the disciples were intended to be witnesses for Christ, what they were to witness, the extent of the territory to be covered by their message, and the persons to whom the testimony was to be delivered, and the results of the testimony when delivered. All of these propositions are contained in the words, “Ye are witnesses”—witnesses of all the great essential facts on which the salvation of the soul rests. The central fact of all facts is the resurrection of Christ. The resurrection of Christ isn’t resting upon an hypothesis, it is an historical fact—a supernatural fact. It is an essential fact. It is the deciding fact—the fact upon which the whole question of the salvation of souls rests.

No disciple of Christ, who preached in the early centuries, omitted teaching the bodily resurrection

of Christ. At that time the two contending camps were in existence. Hymenæus, Alexander and Philetus belonged to the camp which said the resurrection is past (2 Tim. 2:17-18). They said, Christ's body did not arise from the dead. Alexander and Hymenæus were the Unitarians and rationalists of that day, who denied the bodily resurrection of Christ. Whether or not present day rationalists run back in their ancestral line to those who paid money to the conspirators who were watching the grave, they certainly belong to the school out of which that conspiracy came.

If you have preached the doctrine that a man's salvation is to be judged by his fruits, then you have behind you the Scripture which declares that he who believes and knows experimentally that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, is born again. He who denies that Jesus Christ came in the flesh is not a Christian. The Scripture reference cited above states that there were two camps at that time. They were of the world. They did not believe in the supernatural statements of Scripture, nor in these supernatural facts. They denied the fact of Christ's Incarnation, and taught that He was only an historical character. John says, you may know that a man is born again if his soul and spirit and heart and intellect accept Jesus Christ as very God of very God. He is a Christian who so believes and accepts Christ.

It is impossible to discuss these questions if you



are going to ignore the Bible. The Bible is the revelation of these facts.

You will never be able to build the Christian convert into a strong, athletic Christian if you do not indoctrinate him. If America is suffering from anything today, it is ignorance of the fundamentals upon which the government rests. You will have to build its faith on fundamental, American doctrines. The same thing is true of the Christian. You must indoctrinate the members of the Church. One of the most vicious doctrines ever taught is the doctrine of intellectual conciliation. That is what the school of rationalists is teaching. They have planted in their college and school faculties men who are teaching intellectual conciliation. They have undermined the people's faith. They have captured your theological schools, some of your Bible schools, and are teaching rationalism, to the detriment of the faith of the people. You must bring the people back to the great truths contained in God's infallible Word if you expect to fortify and enlarge the Church.

One of the doctrines these men are teaching is, "The Bible is a history of the human family." It is one of the most dangerous doctrines ever taught. The Bible is not a history of the human family. There isn't a word of truth in the statement. The Bible is the infallible history of sin and the redemption of the human soul. What is going to become of the sinner, at home and abroad, if you

do not teach him what true redemption is? What is going to become of the sinner if you leave him to Hindu philosophy? Unitarianism in its perfection, and Hindu philosophy in its perfection are one.

Here is the thing, which to my mind is utterly reprehensible: The present-day heretics, just like those already mentioned, are absolutely dishonest when they say, "We believe in the divinity of Christ." If I am a trained theologian, I understand what they mean. But if they say that to an untrained audience, the average man isn't going to catch what they mean. They say, "we believe Christ had divinity in Him, and, you have divinity in you." How dangerous such doctrines are! How deadly they are! Jesus Christ was not divine in the sense in which these false teachers describe Him, and they know it, but they say it for the purpose of deceiving those who listen. Jesus Christ is God in His entirety. He did not have divinity in Him. He is eternally God. That is the difference. These men are, today, using our Christian terminology, but when asked to explain their position they put false interpretations upon their statements.

There are two great schools of thought today—those who belong to the Evangelical school, who believe in the evangelical faith delivered once for all to the saints, and the Rationalists, who use our language, but deny the truths. When you tell them

they belong to the school of Hindu philosophy, that they came out of the school of Hymenæus, they reply, "We are modern and intellectual."

Here is what the evangelical Christians believe: The Bible is the inspired Word of God. *Then the fight begins.* That Unitarian Dean of a certain University says, "The only question as to whether a doctrine is Christian is whether it has been held by Christians." Did you ever hear a more absurd statement than that? You say, "I don't see anything wrong in that." The whole foundation of rationalism rests there. The whole foundation of Unitarianism and Hindu philosophy rests on such statements. To contend for the opinion of man, and the effort of man, and the conduct of man, does not settle the question as to whether the great fundamental truths God has revealed are fundamental or not. They rest upon God, and not upon whether I have stated them, or have not stated them. They rest upon God, and not upon man. The rationalist contends that the salvation of man rests upon man's efforts. The child of God contends that the salvation of man, the condition of the saint and his ultimate perfection rest upon the sovereignty of God, and Christ's vicarious sacrifice. Christians contend that if you can contribute the weight of one hair to the salvation of your soul, then grace is not grace. Grace is voluntary, free, and independent of man's efforts.

We contend there is one Triune, personal God

who governs all things. We contend Jesus Christ is very God; that the birth of Christ was supernatural, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, yet without sin. The life of Christ was perfect because He was the Son of God. He died voluntarily, the just for the unjust, a ransom for many. And there shall be a resurrection of all men. Christ ascended into Heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God. He will come again to this world.

Man was created in the image of God by a supernatural act. Death entered by sin, so death passed upon all men in that all have sinned. Regeneration by the Holy Ghost; that is what the Christian believes. What do rationalists believe? When Hymenæus was by Paul and John turned over to Satan to be punished for blasphemy, John said, "He who says that our bodies are not to be raised, ought to be turned over to Satan." What do rationalists teach? They say, "We do not believe the Bible is infallible." They claim to be intellectual. They claim the Bible is a human record of human experience containing truth and error. How are you going to be saved, then? If you were a Chinese pagan and these teachers came to you and said, "The Bible is not infallible; truth is to be determined by your reason," you would never see the light, if left to your reason to say whether or not it is infallible. That is the trouble on the foreign mission field today. Some ration-



alists have been sent out who preach that the world is still in process of creation. And they call this modern! It is pantheistic. The whole Christian position is lost if men do not believe Christ is God. Others say Christ swooned in the grave; that the birth of Christ was natural, but illegitimate. Paul says: "Please take Alexander and Hymenæus and Philetus and turn them over to Satan, because their denial of Christ, His incarnation and resurrection is blasphemous."

Again: These false teachers say: "In His life Christ was subject to the limitations of man, but to a less degree. His death is exemplary; Jesus Christ's body did not arise from the dead; it remains in the dust of Palestine. We do not believe in the resurrection of the body. We believe His spirit is immortal; so is every man's. Man is the product of evolution." And yet, they claim to be intellectual. They claim to be scholars, yet stand up and say that evolution is a science. Great scholars have never claimed for evolution anything more than that it is an hypothesis. The great scholars of Germany have repudiated the theory of evolution. I am talking, now, about *real* scholars. Science is supposed to be an exact statement of exact facts and exact laws. These charlatans talk about evolution being a science. But here is where they dodge: They ask: "Don't you believe in development?" Development of species is a fact. Spencer and Darwin gave us pigeons highly



developed, but they sent them back to the island from whence they came and they retrograded. The law of development cannot pass the boundary line of retrogression. I can take a pig and make a pretty good pig out of him, but turn a pig loose in the streets, and it will not be long until it wallows in the mire. The only sure thing is the regenerating power of Jesus Christ.

Once more: Rationalists teach that man is the unfortunate victim of environment and heredity. What happened to Eve and Adam? The most perfect environment God could make, the most perfect garden, could not keep Eve and Adam straight. Yet they talk about environment and education! Put them back in the garden, with the singing birds, the beautiful flowers and everything that grows, and they will sing, play and scamper unhampered; but human nature has in it the dynamic over which even perfect environment has no permanent control. The only power that will lift you out of that abyss is the fact that Christ died, went down into hell to wash from you every stain of sin, and overcame the dynamic of depravity. By His sacrificial death He gave you new birth in Christ and made you a new creature. That is regeneration.

Some of the most scientific criminals on earth are the most highly educated, university graduates. There are few forgers in America who do not carry a diploma from some State university. That

is not meant as an attack upon education. It is offered as a proof that education is not able to regenerate a man. It can not change the human heart.

I am not unfair, nor have I any animosity against the heretics. I would that they would come to Christ and be regenerated by His blood. I am expressing no personal feeling, save the feeling of love and trust and gratitude to Christ for saving my soul. Beautiful Christian atmosphere in a beautiful Christian home—everything conducive to a regulated life? It is not a regulated life I want. It is a *new* life with the love of God and the power of Christ. It is the life liberated by grace that I want. It is the life on the mountain peak of faith I want. That is the faith I offer you, lost soul. The fight is on, and it will never end until Christ comes again.

## XII

### THE CRIME WAVE PRODUCERS

*“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. . . . Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away, for this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts.”—2 TIMOTHY 3: 1-6.*

THESE verses are part of God's infallible description of the hours and days in the closing scenes of the world's history. If you are a student of events and also of God's Word, you know that those verses portray the conditions of the present day, and conditions that are to follow. Sometimes I listen to men who question God's Word, who seem to doubt the authenticity and authority of the Scriptures, and I wonder why they do not study the Scriptures, read them accurately, carefully, just as God has written them. Because, if any man's conscience is functioning, if his reason is still on the throne, if he has any faculty of insight which enables him to read the Bible as God has written it, he will see a perfect outline of the movements of men, the march of the ages, and the trend of the times.

There is not a heretic on earth who knows the Scriptures. There is not a heretic on earth who can quote the Scriptures accurately. In making his attack upon God's Word, he always garbles God's holy Word. You have never seen a quotation, with the correct meaning of the Scriptures, given by a heretic.

If you want to know something of the significance of the movements of today, read prophecy and you will find, and that speedily, that prophecy is unfolding the steps that today are making history. That is true of what we are pleased to call the great crime wave of today. The crime producers are mentioned in Holy Writ, and the period when the crime wave would sweep over the world is accurately described. This is not the only crime wave that has swept over the world, but every one has been prophesied in Holy Writ, and has come just at the time the Scriptures indicated. We are now in the midst of another crime wave prophesied in Scripture. You will see and understand something about these movements if you read the entire chapter from which my text is taken. Each word has a separate and distinct meaning. Each word describes a certain part of the movement of this day, brings to your attention a certain class of people and condition in the body politic, and shows you, accurately, just where to put your finger. Have you ever seen a statement that contained more in each word than these



verses? Have you ever noticed, by reading history, a more accurate description of the assertiveness, the abandon with which men conduct themselves? There is a crime wave. You cannot deny it. There may be those who will deny it, but the stubborn facts stand out before you, telling you that there is a crime wave working over the whole face of civilization. That this crime wave shows up greater over certain parts of civilization is because of the exposing, revelatory character of light, and because law and civilization are demanding certain things.

You have to admit that this crime wave is perfectly logical, not sporadic, not something you are uncertain about.

There are twelve specific causes underlying this great movement of sin:

I. These verses show, history proves, and your own observation confirms the fact that the first thing underlying this great wave of crime is the viciousness of sin. Therefore, the wave is logical. If you do not know anything about prophecy, those words may not have the effect desired. The crime wave is due to the viciousness of sin, and it convinces you of the accuracy of prophecy. Because, in the last days sin is going to be more active, more vicious, more determined and more aggressive than at any other period. Do you think you are the only one who knows about the movement of Time? There is not a demon under the control of Satan

but knows. Satan knows the hour is striking, and his forces know that they must be exceedingly vicious if they are going to reap the harvest they expect before the check is put upon them. Satan has existed through all the long past, and he exists now and is more vicious and determined than at any previous period in his history. Never was there a time when sin was as determined as now. The awful, hellish, viciousness of sin is the cause of the crime wave sweeping over the world.

II. The second thing is the rage of heresy. The rationalists who are making their attacks upon Jesus Christ and His infallible Book, will deny this statement. Mr. Heretic, Mr. Rationalist, I want to say that when you make your attack upon the deity of Christ, upon God's infallible Word, you are starting the wave motions of hell that will have their ending in the violation of law and in other overt acts of men. Can I prove it? When Nietzsche created his superman and made his attack upon Christ's deity and God's infallible Word, he forged the sword that has just put ten million boys under the sod. The late war could not have occurred had it not been for the damnable Nietzsche teaching his superman and making his attack upon Christ and God's infallible Word. You have the war, the battlefield, and ten million dead soldiers to prove that statement. You who are laughing at the Bible, who do not study it and know nothing about it, are aiding and abetting that group of anti-

christ's to perpetuate the crime wave of today. They make their attack upon government, upon law, and upon the home. When you hear one of these men making an attack upon the Bible, write in your little notebook, "There is a producer of crime."

III. The reaction of the World War is having very much to do with the crime wave of the world. You cannot go onto battlefields, mobilize something like fifty million men, and kill them by the million without producing a certain condition of psychological abandon, which, acting through the unsaved forces of the armies, has a tremendous effect upon the morale of the world. It has always been so. A certain amount of crime has followed in the wake of every war. Following the World War, there has been a certain condition and certain wave of crime which is the logical result of the conflict. Remember, that the war did not produce the crime wave, but the things of which we are speaking produced the wave, and the wave produced the war.

IV. Another contributing cause is ignorance of the Bible. Let me lay the foundation of this part of my indictment. Thirty-five school teachers in a certain State were making application for licenses to teach. Thirteen did not know who wrote the Apostles' Creed, and only thirteen were able to say who wrote the Decalogue, and where it could be found. Thirty-five were asked who wrote the

Sermon on the Mount. Only thirteen knew, and where it could be found. And, yet, you expect children to be taught to respect God and His Word. It is impossible for you to stop the crime wave that is sweeping over the country unless you bring the Bible back into the home and teach it to the children. There was a time when we took the children aside on Sunday afternoons and taught them the Catechism. There are but few who could find a Catechism in their homes today. Search through your closets and you will not find it. Are you going to put the Bible back into the public schools? You cannot put it there to be taught by the public school teachers because they are not competent to teach it. The schools are full of heretics. The Bible ought to be put back into the schools and *read* every morning. Every child should know the Ten Commandments and the First and Second Psalm. There are many men who could not quote the Ten Commandments. One of the causes of crime is ignorance of God's Word.

V. Sabbath desecration. If men are going to be permitted, with complete abandon, to say that they can do as they please on God's Holy Day, why not take the next step and do as they please in every other way? Christians are responsible for part of the present wave of Sabbath desecration. Some preachers assert that if people worship a little in the morning, they may do as they please in the afternoon, and no harm will be done. To such as



these I would say—remember that whenever you undertake to put God's day out of existence, you are putting into life a disregard for law. If you can carve out "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy," why not carve out, "Thou shalt not commit adultery"? Why not tear the Constitution to pieces and do as you please? The Sabbath desecrators of today are aiding and abetting the crime wave of the hour.

VI. One of the augmenting causes of the crime wave is religious intrigue and intolerance. You are constantly being told that there should be no religious intolerance in this country. As if religious intrigue and intolerance were practiced only by you. You are being charged, you alone are being charged with religious intrigue and religious intolerance. Hasn't it been practiced by many other people for a great many years, and haven't they tried every day to create religious ostracism? Of course it is wrong, and it breeds crime. There is no reason why there should be religious intrigue, dividing the house of God, and it is only done for the purpose of preventing the spread of the gospel.

VII. Another reason for the crime wave is the present-day press. It is impossible for newspapers to print, month after month, the conflict between good forces and bad, or to disregard of law by criminals without its having a tremendous effect upon the reader. One of the causes permeating the press is the misrepresentation of virtue and the ex-

ploitation of vice for the purpose of increasing the circulation of the papers. If I should say I know a man who is going to have the ground broken for a million dollar plant, you would find an account of it in a little corner. But, let him commit a crime, and all the red ink of hell will spread it all over the front page. The magnifying of vice and the diminishing of virtue, which the daily press is guilty of, has a tremendously baneful effect on the criminal element of society.

VIII. There never came into existence anything that possessed the possibilities of being made so educationally profitable as the moving picture screen. Yet nothing has produced as much harm. As a mechanical device it might be used to promulgate great educational truths. There are something like eighteen million people sitting before the silver screen every day in this country. And it is magnifying the vice, the wreckage, the corruption, the infidelity, the intrigue of human nature all the time. Your boy, sitting in front of that screen, is having his desire to commit crime being fed by what his eyes behold. Your girl is being taught to sell the most precious thing God ever gave, by the flashlights of the screen. Following out its baneful purpose as a magnifier of the vice of human nature, the movie screen is one of the great crime producers of the country.

It should be taken out of the hands of those who are making their attack upon the Holy Sabbath—

men who say: "We do not want censorship." If we had a Congress with even a shoe-string for a backbone it would pass a Federal Censorship law, requiring every one of the picture-producing people who are making an attack upon God, upon His Bible, and upon the Sabbath, to bring his production before a Christian Citizenship Board. I believe in a Federal Censorship Board. We must clean the screen. I believe, moreover, that it should be captured by the Church and kept out of the hands of the crime producers.

IX. The Dance. All the disgusting hugging that has been going on for the last fifteen years has been sending juvenile society to the very door of hell. The public dance hall is one of the greatest curses ever introduced into a community. How can you regulate five hundred couples at once? When you turn them loose on the floor you cannot regulate them. When people come to the dance dressed for the purpose of getting the effect of physical contact you know it aids in producing the crime wave.

X. There is a condition which might be called Social Speeditis. Let me tell you how it starts. It affects everything you do. You have to exceed the speed limit in walking, in buying, in spending. This is the day of extravagant and reckless expenditures. A young man cannot make one hundred dollars a month and spend one hundred and twenty-five without somebody losing something.

You cannot spend more than you make and be honest and clean. Let me say, and no one loves a good woman more than I do, whenever a young girl encourages a young man to spend more than he earns, she will land him, eventually, behind the bars. If she is not willing to allow her sweetheart to live within his income, she is unfit to become his wife. My advice to all such is—"Let her alone."

XI. The crime wave is rising because of lax enforcement of law. There never was a time when we were enforcing law so indifferently as we are today. Who is to blame? First of all, men who refuse to serve on juries. You try to be excused from the jury room by pretending you are not conversant enough to make an intelligent juror; you are controlled largely by your sentiments—and so forth. We cannot run this country on sentiment. When a person is charged with a crime and there is no doubt about his guilt, you will find people doing everything in their power to enable that criminal to escape the consequences of his crime. You are trying constantly to get some man out of the penitentiary who ought to stay there; and those who have committed crimes against society you are trying to have excused. We shall never be able to enforce law until public officials are willing to do their duty. Public officials say: "I will enforce this law, but not that one." It is not his business to select the law to be enforced. It is his business to uphold the majesty of the law, to teach respect



for God, obedience to law and reverence for the constitution of the United States. You will never be able to enforce law as it should be enforced until you establish judicial commissions to select judges and certify that they are capable and incorruptible.

When men who care nothing about the law try to make a hero out of a criminal, of course, they are aiding in producing a crime wave.

XII. Irreverence for home, for God, for law, and for the institutions of the land is also making its contribution to the present-day crime wave. When you have no regard for the home, its sacredness, its rights, its purposes, its powers, its divinity, how do you expect to minimize crime? Women are learning to use weapons, and they are killing more husbands than we can well register. That comes from irreverence for home, for God. Our text says, "This know, also, that in the last days perilous times shall come, for men shall be lovers of their own selves." Can any one deny it? "Boasters," "unholy, without natural affection."

"Traitors." What is a traitor? The man who advocates the destruction of God's Word, who advocates an improper social life, who advocates license in place of law—*he* is a traitor. "Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure." The old sturdy, stalwart spirit that courts difficulty, is willing to come through rain and storm seems to have faded from the world. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." The

power of godliness, namely, personal righteousness and loyalty to the Church.

“This sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women.” They would damn your home. These are the cults that separate husband and wife. These cults, living off diseased bodies and preying upon the unsuspecting, they are the ones mentioned in these Scriptures. These are the facts that are behind the crime wave of today. What are you going to do about it? I have given you twelve reasons. I could give you many more.

There is but one remedy. It is found in a revival of genuine Christianity. Get back to old-fashioned ideas—which, in reality, are just as new today as when the angels sang on the hills of Bethlehem. Get back to regeneration by the blood of Jesus, salvation by faith, grace given by God through Christ. You know you are a sinner. Get back to the place where you will stand ready to confess Christ as your Savior. He who believes is saved—*now*. The remedy lies, then, in following up that confession of faith. The remedy lies in the Church, and in no place outside of the Church. Come back to the Church. When you have been redeemed, made your confession of faith, sworn your loyalty to God, to His Son, to the Bible, to the Church, then you are going to keep the laws of the land and respect the Constitution of the United States. Then you are going to respect your home, build up your family in holy faith—you are going

to become a citizen worth while. There is no remedy for you outside of Christ. Won't you confess Him, and join His Church? It stands for the deity of Christ. It stands for the blood atonement, the preaching of the Bible, the Constitution of the country, righteous living, equitable, square dealing, a happy family and home.

### XIII

#### THE OLD AND THE NEW MODERNIST

*“Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God; and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God.”—I JOHN 4:2-3.*

*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.”  
—2 TIMOTHY 3:16.*

THERE is confusion in the minds of the laity because of the terms used by the enemies of Christ. It is therefore necessary frequently to repeat some very essential things and restate some of the infallible doctrines of the Bible, for the human mind is prone to forget. Memory does not keep her windows clean, nor her scroll rolled out before her all the while, and sometimes when she lapses she fails to recall great fundamental truths on which the soul must rest, and to which the Republic must look for its stability. It is absolutely essential to the salvation of the individual and the perpetuity of this Government that every man understand the fundamental questions on which the Church rests, and to which the Government must look for protection and perpetuation.

It is to the orthodox pulpit that the Church looks for the defense of the faith delivered once for all



to the saints. There is no other agency in the world teaching that faith except the pulpit which believes in the blood of Jesus Christ. All the conditions through which the world has passed were due to the divergence, both of the pulpit and of the Church, from the orthodox position. That is a fact easy to prove, when one studies history.

It is said that the modernist is the enlightened and educated person of today; that the modernist does not believe these old-time truths, and that he represents the progress, the education and the intellect of advancing centuries. Beautiful, but absolutely false! There is no real scholar in the world, who has the right to scholarship, who takes such a position. There are charlatans in the pulpit who use these misleading and confusing terms, but they are as unworthy as it is possible for souls to be. That is exactly what the little Book of John says. Write it in modern language and it comes to something like this: John was talking to people who were confronted with certain heretical views. "Do not be confused, nor worried," he said. "If you want to put such views and persons to the test, make them admit the incarnation of Jesus Christ. He is God everlasting."

Who denies that Jesus Christ was incarnated; that He came in the flesh; that He is very God of very God? Such a man is not of God, is not a Christian, was never regenerated. He is lost, and is just as sure of the pit as it is possible for one

to be. John said, those who reject Him will deny the incarnation. That is just as true today as it was when John wrote it. Put every man to the test—his philosophy, his religion, his politics, his business, his social life, his domestic life—put every one to that test, and see whether or not he can stand it. If he knows experimentally that Jesus Christ is God, he is saved. If he does not know it, he is lost; he is of the opposite party and cannot be fellowshipped with, cannot be recognized ecclesiastically. He is ostracized, doomed. Let him remain so unless he confesses, and stands the test Christ has made. That is Christ's statement; that is the little Book of John.

Let me say to you, without fear of contradiction, that the so-called modernist has not presented a single new attack on Christ. There is not on the page of history, nor in any book extant, a single new statement of attack on Christ. But, you ask me, what is the purpose of these men who are striking at Christ? They are in the pulpits. They are taking the money out of good, orthodox pockets to pay for their bread and their wives' dresses. Why aren't they honest enough to say, "We have repudiated God and Christ"? Why do they continue to ask Christians to feed them? Why are they making the attack on Christ? There must be a purpose. Of course, the dynamic force controlling them is Satanic. Satan began his attack on God before he left heaven. God threw him out.

He made another attack when he tempted Adam. He attacks Christ and the Church today. If he can use any agency, in the pulpit or out of it, to attack Christ he is going to do it. What is the clean-cut reason for these attacks? If the modernists could, by their rationalistic teachings, destroy your faith in God, then they would use intellectual and physical force to set up a man-made government and religion in which they would be supreme. Page after page could be written to prove it. I will cite two.

In 1780, Immanuel Kant, that German heretic, wrote his attack on Christ and on the Bible. Frederick William the Second ordered him to recant, and he wrote a recantation so weak and ridiculous that it became the laughing-stock of Germany.

The writings of Nietzsche produced the idea of the superman which robbed Germany of her soul. It sent Germany's soul to the lowest recognized point. That is so clear that you can see it. The purpose is to destroy faith, the faith delivered once for all to the saints, in order that in its place there might be a system erected based upon force—physical, moral and intellectual. Nietzsche, Germany, the German sword, the decline of German civilization and the field of carnage is the answer to these attacks on Christ and the infallible Bible.

I am trying to show you that there is nothing new in the little charlatan's talk about modernism. Has any one found anything new in the attack on

the vicarious, sacrificial doctrine? When did that attack begin. Some one has said, "I do not believe in the blood. Do not sing 'There is a fountain filled with blood.'" Cain said, "I will not sacrifice blood." Sacrifice was repulsive to him. Yet, Cain became so angry about it, he killed his brother. Is there anything new in the attack on the blood? Come all the way down the ages and study the pantheistic doctrines of the past. No man can attack the blood without being a rank pantheist, or a Unitarian, or a rationalist.

Will you please tell me whether there is anything new in the attack that is being made on the Bible? Jehoiakim made an attack on it. He said, "Bring it to me and I will cut it up," and he took his knife and cut it to pieces. The little charlatans of today are also trying to cut it to pieces. They have used their little pen-knives and their little scissors until they brought forth a great abortion—the shorter Bible. If there was ever a thing on earth mean and contemptible, it is their so-called shorter Bible. Is there anything new? Could you call it modern?

Is there anything new in spiritism? Poor old Conan Doyle! If you have read any of his effusions you are bound to admit that the man is slipping. They have all slipped, these spiritualists, except the characters who are too crooked to slip. Is there anything new about it? The witch of Endor started it. Coming on down the centuries, we find the Fox Sisters—three erratic girls. Then



we come over to some erratic men, who are always worse than women.

Is there any thing modern in the attack being made on Jesus Christ today? Does it come of scholarship, of education, of progress, of new revelation, new light? If it came from the modern advancement of today, then where did the Jews get it? They made an attack on Christ about nineteen hundred years ago, and they succeeded in conspiring against Him, so far as they were concerned, and in crucifying Him. And all the way down to the Jews of today, such people are still attacking Him. Is there anything new in that?

They write about how we should treat these so-called heretics. The articles close with the sentence, "We ought to have the Spirit of God." That is one of their stock phrases. Ask one of them, and he will say, "Yes, I believe in the Spirit of God." They think that is one of the cleverest attacks on the Third Person. The Holy Ghost is a personality, just as you are. He is the Third Personality of the Godhead. He is coeval and co-equal with God. He is not the Spirit *of* God. *He is God*, the Third Person of the Trinity, independent, self-existent, everlasting, very God of very God, and yet the heretic and the atheist, the Unitarian and the Jew will talk about the Holy Spirit as the Spirit *of* God. Paul said, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost?" They said, "We have not heard there is such a *thing*. We do not know any-

thing about it. Don't talk to us about the Third Person of the Trinity." The modernists are just old, rank heretics in present day clothes.

These charlatans talk about evolution being a science. In 1859 Darwin issued his little pamphlet and said: "Remember that I am only offering a *theory*. I am only offering an hypothesis." An hypothesis is a guess, and, in 1859, Darwin guessed wrong. He admitted before he died that he had guessed wrong. His son wholly repudiated his father's guess. Others wrote denying it. Huxley said it was a failure. And, all the real scholars admit the collapse of the guess. One of the greatest scholars said: "The trouble with so-called evolution is, *it never arrived*." And that is true—*it never arrived*. It is not here yet. If real scholars, worthy of respect as scholars, were to advocate that hypothesis, then one should come back to the statement of John, and say, they are advocating it for the purpose of making an attack upon Christ and His creative sovereignty. The self-generating guess, the spontaneous generating guess, the natural selection guess of Darwin, if it were true, would strike a deadly blow at the sovereignty of God and at the power of Jesus Christ. But, there is not a scintilla of evidence in the world on which the guess could rest for a minute. There is not anything modern about it.

I have proved my point of why the modernist is making the attack on Christ. You see, if he can

make you waver in your faith, and, in the faith delivered once for all to the saints, make you doubt the vicarious death of the Son of God, you will have to ask him to set you up a plan of salvation. He comes with environment, education, character, and talks about the progress he is making. Why isn't there a regenerated man, somewhere in the world, who can stand up and say, "I know Jesus Christ experimentally because I am a Unitarian"? That would answer the whole question. He does not know experimentally anything about Christ. Why can't you find somewhere a man who has been educated into the spiritual life? Why can't you find some one who can say, "I am a legalist, I have kept the Ten Commandments absolutely, I am perfect, and I am ready to go to heaven." A moralist is afraid to say he is a legalist. He must have some doubt about it. The experimental knowledge of Christ casts out all fear and doubt of salvation. If you could find one somewhere in the realm who could stand up and say, "God has received me because I have kept His commandments absolutely"—that would answer the attack on His vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice. You have to be saved by a supernatural personage. You have to be saved by the Second Person of the Trinity, take His place under law, satisfying the voice of nature, the demand of God and the requisites of righteousness before you can stand at all. Is not that true? Jesus Christ, the Son of God, wearing the cloak of

this human flesh, stood before God and said, what the legalist cannot say, "Father, I have come to fulfill—to fill full—the law. I have come and I challenge the law, and I challenge the penal end of the law." When He had finished, He stood before His Father, as He stands today and says, "Father, my blood has stood the test, and I ask you to apply it to that man's soul."

That is Christianity, that is the whole thing. Do you believe in Christ, and know experimentally the Son of God? If so, you ought to repudiate every man who denies that the blood of Jesus Christ saves. You ought to go forth and teach Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Be true to Christ. Be loyal to Him, though all the world fails. The blood constitutes the only ground God has for saying, You are justified. I speak reverentially when I say, God could not save you without the blood of Christ. It is the only ground God has for saving you. You stand before Him justified. Are you going to repudiate that doctrine? Then confess Him before men and He will confess you before the Father, and before His angels. I know him experimentally because saved by His vicarious blood, shed on Calvary's brow for my redemption.



## XIV

### THE JEW AND HIS RELATIONSHIP TO THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

*"Now the Lord God had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou shalt be a blessing . . . and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed."*—GENESIS 12: 1-3.

**I**F you want to comprehend this subject, you should read beginning with the twelfth chapter of Genesis, and ending with the twelfth chapter of Matthew. In addition to my text, read the following passages as keys to the subject: Genesis 28: 13-14; Leviticus 20 and 26; II Kings 17: 34; Exodus 2: 24-25; Exodus 6: 6-8.

Remember, the eleventh chapter of Romans is an epitome of all the Scriptures between Genesis twelve, and Matthew twelve. Read the first six verses of Romans eleven, and read the rest of the chapter later.

From the human standpoint, the greatest fact in history is the Jew, and the Jew is a fact. He is not a theory, he is a separate and distinct fact. It is as impossible to get rid of the Jew as it is to pluck the

sun from its orbit. It is as impossible to move the Jew out of his place as it is to jostle the planets out of their spheres. It is as impossible to prevent the Jew from coming to the ultimate end and place that God has decreed for him as it is to shake the heavens and move them out of their ultimate sphere. The Jew is a fact.

If you have ever doubted the Scriptures; if you have ever doubted God's electing grace; if you have ever doubted God's decrees, or God's plans, you should converse with some real, orthodox Jew. Not that he is going to inform you of more than I have mentioned, but, as you look at him and study him, you will find he is not the product of evolution. He is one character in history that the evolutionists would not dare to place, if they were honest or knew what they were talking about. The Jew is not a product of evolution. He is not a climatic product. No climate in the world produced the Jew. He is not the product of any geographical section—though he has a geographical destiny and a geographical beginning. But, the geographical beginning and setting, and the geographical destiny of the Jew did not produce him. He is not the product of evolution; he is not the result of chance; he is not a climatic condition; but he is a God-created, God-decreed, God-called, God-elected and God-protected individual. He stands before God, separate from all nationalities of the world, from all the histories of the world,

and from all peoples of the world—he is a separate and distinct entity.

Prior to the calling of Abraham the whole human family was one family, and distinctions were not made. But, when God called Abraham, He called him out from the world family; He called him out for redemptive purposes, and called him to a divine destiny. He then and there created; He then and there selected; He then and there elected Israel for a definite and distinct place in life.

You might ask me why He selected Israel, why He brought Israel into existence. It would be necessary for me to go back of the period prior to that; but, you are sufficiently familiar with the subject for me to say that the human family, coming into existence by the creative act of God, failing to occupy the place that God created for the family, having disobeyed God, and having permitted evil and sin to come into existence, lost its place before God. Then it became God's purpose to present Himself to the human race. It was His purpose to save the human family from the wreck and ruin produced by the Fall. The Garden of Eden was not strong enough; the environment was not perfect enough; the vegetable diet was not sufficient; the communion with God, and the beautiful communion with nature, all failed to keep the human family intact, failed to keep it in purity, failed to keep it from sin. It fell; and the human con-

science was not sufficient to bring it back. God had to call, and He did elect an agency through which to present Himself and the plan of salvation to a lost and ruined world.

Let me then call your attention to this significant fact: If there is any one in the world who doubts human depravity, if there is any one who doubts total depravity, or doubts that man is a lost, ruined soul, let him look into the face of some Israelite. That Israelite would not have been called, would not be in existence, would not have gone through the history of the past up to the present, and would not have traveled the marked path of the Jew, had it not been for the Fall of man, the degeneration of the human race, and the total depravity of the individual, as well as the race. The Jew is a witness, infallible, eternal and everlasting, to the total depravity of the human family, and, he is God-elected witness to that fact. He was God-elected and it was an unconditional election. There was not a single condition on which that election was based. It was unconditional. There was no special merit in Abraham. There was no merit in any human being in this universe. There were no works, no meritorious deeds, and there were no conditions, nor anything that could appeal to God. The election of Abraham was an unconditional election for the purposes that God had in view, namely, to present Himself to a lost and ruined world for the salvation of man.



There is another fact, just as significant and just as important, namely: God not only elected Abraham, Israel, and the whole Jewish race to the things that I am going to talk about, but God selected a land for His people. The election of Abraham and the selection and gift of the land to His people was by the decree of Almighty God. Israel was not in Palestine by chance, and the Palestinian land was not given to Israel by chance, but it was by the act and decree of Almighty God. There is no power in this universe to prevent the fulfillment of that decree and promise and gift.

I read an article written by one of the distinguished Hebrews of America. At the close of it he certainly weakened when he undertook to deal in statistics about the ability of the land to hold and to feed the House of Israel. My friends, let me ask this question, and let me suggest this to the world: If the great God of this universe out of His own decrees called Abraham, if the great God of this universe selected that land, then the great God of this universe is able to make that land sufficient unto the day and unto the conditions, and unto the people that will occupy it. He is dealing with God, not with a human problem. He is dealing with a decree, not with a chance. He is dealing with a destiny, not a temporary situation. He seems to have forgotten that fact.

Then, in the unconditional election of Abraham, and in the unconditional selection of the land that

God decreed, He selected Israel and the land in order that Abraham and the nation out of him and under him might be a universal blessing. God intended, through this people, to diffuse a blessing upon the whole world. That was the purpose of God, the intention of God, and He will make that promise good. It shall not fail.

In the next place, God selected these people in order that through them might come the instrument, the means by which the fulfillment of these promises might become real to the whole world. When He promised them that they should be the line through which this great instrument should come, He set forth certain facts for them to observe, namely: They were to keep in harmony with Him; they were to obey His laws; they were to live the righteous, clean, straightforward life.

Now, we find that when Jesus Christ came, His own people rejected Him, though He had been promised, though He had been foretold to them from very infancy, and there was not a Jew in all the world that was not required to memorize the Scriptures. The Jews knew the prophets, and they knew the prophets because they were Jews, and the prophecies were written by Jews, and their children were required to memorize and master the Scriptures. And, when Jesus was born, He came through the line that God had decreed. He had to come through the line of David and through the line of Mary, and the union between the two makes

the line absolutely perfect. The line of Joseph, if you please, had to take place by union, and not by generation. It had to take place between Joseph and Mary. But, the line of direct descent had to come through Mary. So Jesus was in line for the fulfillment of the promise; and He is still in line, and the promises concerning Him and the throne through that line will yet be fulfilled.

God promised that when Jesus Christ should come He would set up a kingdom; that He would establish the kingdom; and yet, when He was presented to the Jews for that purpose, they rejected Him. They had occupied the place of blessing, teaching, promise and power, but when Jesus Christ, their Messiah and King, through both of these lines—David and Mary—was presented to them, they rejected Him.

But Jesus Christ did not withdraw His kingly power when He was rejected by them. He was by their rejection, and by their testimony, and by their efforts, crucified as King of the Jews; and He died upon the Cross as King of the Jews. When He died upon the Cross as King of the Jews and was buried and rose again, and ascended, He took His place at the right hand of God as the mediator of those who believe in Him. He promised that He would come again and fulfill all promises between Genesis 3 and Matthew 12. Jesus Christ promised that He would come again and fulfill those promises. He will come again.

Having gone briefly over some of the steps, we find the Jew still here. Prior to the time I have mentioned—the rejection of Jesus Christ—the Jew had a national existence. He had been in existence three thousand years; and, in less than seven hundred of those years, his national, cohesive power had existed; and in practically twenty-five hundred years of that time he has lost his national existence; and from the crucifixion of Christ until the present moment the national life of the Jew does not and cannot exist.

But, you ask, was the Jew nationally rejected? Yes, the Jew *was* nationally rejected. Mark what I am saying—nationally rejected. Why was he nationally rejected? (I am speaking, first, of the time prior to the Crucifixion.) Because of his idolatry. God required the Jew to live before Him in righteousness, in recognition of his power, and his position, and his relationship to Him. The Jew was first rejected because of his idolatry. He was most idolatrous, and idolatry caused his national rejection. Not only were the Jews individual idolators at the time of their rejection, but nationally they were idolators, and because of national idolatry they were rejected.

Secondly, they were rejected because they rejected Jesus Christ. When the Jew nationally turned his back on his own King—Jesus Christ—God rejected the Jew, and nationally he has not existed since. And, thirdly, the reason for the



rejection of the Jew was because he refused the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Note these three reasons for the national rejection of the Jew: (1) Because of his idolatry; (2) Because of his rejection of Christ; (3) Because he refused the Gospel to the Gentiles. He was required to give the Gospel to the world. It was the decree of God, the command of God. It was the duty of the Jew to give the gospel to the world. Let me digress for a moment and say that the Jew will ultimately give the Gospel to the world. But, when he rejected Christ, then he rejected the opportunity of giving the Gospel to the world. The Jew was nationally rejected by Almighty God for these reasons. The land was taken from him. Immediately? No, he lived in Palestine nearly forty years after the Crucifixion of Christ, but the land passed out of his power and out of his control, and it has been out of his control ever since. It will never be restored to him until the steps that God has decreed are fulfilled for the restoration of that land. But, that land shall be restored to him, and he shall be restored to that land.

Now, let us see what he has been doing since that time: He has been scattered all over the world. You should keep ever before you that the Jew is a fact—not a theory, nor a doctrine, nor a chance. The Jew is a fact—the most stubborn fact in history.

Since the rejection of Christ, and since the Jew

has been nationally rejected, what has occurred? He has been scattered all over the world, and has been imbedded in all the nations of the world; and yet, he has not lost one single characteristic. Wrap him up in the nationality of any country, bury him in the bosom of any nationality, and you cannot destroy his individuality, and God-decreed, God-created, God-elected characteristics and national distinction. Isn't that a fact? And yet he does not exist nationally, and cannot now exist nationally.

The Jew was decreed to be a blessing to the world. He shall yet be a blessing to the world. In the Scriptural sense that I am talking about, he has not been the blessing since he rejected Christ, because he has not had the blessing to bestow. And yet, a great blessing has come to the world through the Jew, namely, Jesus Christ and the Gospel of Christ.

Now, if through Christ and through the Jew this partial blessing—this blessing of salvation, this blessing of Christianity—has come, what will be the blessing when the Jew nationally is brought back to God, regenerated and used as the evangelistic agent of God? Can you imagine it? Is it not marvelous? What will be the blessing?

What have the Jews who rejected Christ been doing? They have been in all the countries of the world. They have known the Scriptures; and yet, the Jew is responsible for the evil propaganda of infidelity in the world. The real rejection of the

Scriptures throughout the world has been the result of the propaganda of unregenerated, unsaved Jews. Spinoza, if you please, who once occupied a place as an orthodox Jew, and who was rejected by the Jews, and his companions—Spinoza is responsible, not only for the atheism, the attack upon the validity of God's Word, but, he and his are responsible for the rationalism that, today, is cursing the world. Very easy to understand, isn't it?

In the providence of God, the Jew was decreed to be, not only a national blessing, but an individual blessing. If the Jews rejected their King and their Christ, who, according to their own Scriptures, came without broken line through David and Joseph, and, on the other side of the house, through Mary—and they cannot deny the line unless they deny the Scriptures—and, therefore, in order to avoid the line and the convincing fact of the infallibility of God's Word they must attack it, though it came through their own lines and through their own prophets, they have been not a blessing, but a curse. Not only that, but they are responsible for the rationalistic teachings of today; and, out of those rationalistic teachings, they, knowing the Scriptures, have been led into the heresies of which you have heard. Some have undertaken to say that, through human efforts, human governments, and through human agencies, they would establish and accomplish what God has decreed in His Holy Word shall take place at the

right time and under the right circumstances. They undertook to say that out of governments, and empires and republics, they would build a government, establish an empire, set up a kingdom and rule. But, they will never do it by human means, nor by human governments. It cannot be done in that way.

There are prophecies in God's Word, there are infallible statements in God's Word, that when the time comes the kingdom of Israel shall be established, and on the throne of David. The only one entitled to sit on it, namely, Jesus Christ, will occupy it and will reign supreme over the earth, with the seat of government in the land that God decreed. That is Scripture; that is prophecy, and not human imagination. That is decree, and not human strategy. It shall be done. God will bring the Jew back to Palestine.

What have they been doing? The Jews, because of their rejection of Christ and rejection of the gospel of Jesus Christ, have been the fountains of the socialism, communism and Bolshevism, out of which has come all the political philosophy and anarchy of the world. There are twenty-four Jews today trying to control Russia, and out of that has come the miserable mess that presents itself to the world. Why? Because no people, no individual, and no nation can reject Christ and lay the foundations of a permanent government. It cannot be done.



Another thing: The philosophy of Karl Marx has been the entering wedge of the economic chaos of the world, as well as the philosophy of the Jews of Russia, which has been the entering wedge of the political and governmental chaos of Russia, and will be of the world if their doctrines are adopted. Why? You cannot set up the philosophy of Karl Marx, you cannot deny the infallibility of God's Word, reject Christ, the only Savior of man, and establish an economic system that will cure the ills of the day, or build a government, economic or otherwise, that will bring peace, prosperity and happiness to the world. It cannot be done.

The prophecies we have been discussing ask the question and present the fact that, if the Jew has been rejected nationally what position does the Jew hold under the Gospel? In the eleventh chapter of Romans, God says that He has rejected the Jew nationally, *but not individually*. Today the individual Jew and the individual Gentile are both included under disobedience, unbelief and sin in order that the grace of Christ may operate equally to save both.

The Jew at the present day could not nationally come to God, because the steps to be taken have not yet been taken. But, each and every individual Jew in the world may accept Jesus Christ, and by His vicarious death be regenerated. Thousands of Jews, individually, are accepting Christ and are, by His blood, being regenerated, saved and baptized

into the body of Christ; for Christ has said that His body shall be composed of Jews and Gentiles.

There are but two classes of humanity in the world today—Jew and Gentile. The whole world, outside of the Jew, is called Gentile. The fourteen million Jews in the world constitute the other classification. Christ has said that he who believes, whether Jew or Gentile, will be saved by the blood which He spilled on Calvary; and, He spilled it as the Son of God, the son of David, through the line of Israel, for the salvation of Israel, and the salvation of whoever might accept His atonement for their salvation.

The prophecies I have mentioned show that when Jesus Christ was rejected, the calendar concerning the Jew ceased. From Genesis 12 to Matthew 12 is the Jewish calendar. When Jesus Christ was rejected the calendar ceased. There is no national calendar for Israel—only the individual Jew. Isaac, Jeremiah, or whatever his name may be, stands before God's grace a beneficiary of God's love, and can be saved by the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ. But, the prophecy states that when God called out Abraham, elected him and gave him the land, after certain things were accomplished it would be perpetual. But they rejected Christ, became idolaters, and refused to give the Gospel to the Gentiles. The calendar is cut off from that period to this. From that time to now is the period of nineteen hundred years through

which we are passing. I do not know how long between Matthew twelve, and His Second Coming, or how many years will run. There is not anything in this period except the grace of Jesus Christ. If all the Jews in the world could stand before God between that period and this, living an absolutely righteous life, and if they had all the machinery on earth and all the money in the world, they could not be transported to Palestine and be established as a national entity. Therefore, the Zion movement is one of the greatest farces, and one of the most futile institutions ever established by a deluded people. If the money of the universe were put into the hands of the Jews, and all the transportation facilities of the world were theirs, they could not be gathered in that land at the present moment. Someone has said, Allenby's victory meant the completion of prophecy. But, the time of the Gentiles must run.

Mr. Jew, you are the greatest fact in history. You are God's elected agent. God brought down through you His own Son, but you rejected Him and lost the national power, the national right, the national ability, and the national privilege of gathering your people and presenting to the world a nation, until certain things take place. What are they? You cannot make a king. God gave you a King. You were angry at the form of government you had, and, in a foolish moment, you got a king, a monarch, didn't you? But God gave you finally

*the* King that was crucified. And you shall never have another king, and you cannot go back to the land without *The King*, and you cannot have the land without the sceptre over the land. Then what will take place?

This period is the period of the Church. The Church is not Israel. The Church is composed of Jew and Gentile, and in this period is the Church. In this period is the doctrine of grace. This is the period of preaching the gospel, and in this period the time of the Gentiles will end. It is only a definite period, but, when it ends, the King of the Jews will come, and the Jews, unregenerated, just as they are, scattered all over the world, will be gathered back into the national land, and when the remnant of Israel comes back to God and is then in possession of the Gospel and preaching, the Jews shall be converted and their national existence restored.

There shall arise an antagonistic force, the anti-christ. But, Jesus Christ shall strike the mighty blow and destroy the antichrist, and the governments of the earth shall yield to the Son of God, the King of the Jews; and Israel, with Christ as King, shall reign supreme over the earth for a thousand years.

Then why waste time, Jew, in all of your rationalism? Why cease to be a blessing to the world by your Bolshevism and socialism, and all other isms and rationalism? Don't follow Spinoza;



don't follow Marx; don't follow those who reject Christ. But, oh, individual Jew, let me beg you to accept Christ, that you may be with me a member in the body of Christ.

We are not following the order of the Gospel. It is our business to carry the message to the Jew first, and then to the world. It was His business to carry the Gospel to the Jew first, and to the world. It is your business, as a converted Christian, a regenerated man, a child of God, to carry the gospel to the Jew, and you do not do it. You have neglected him.

Russia, falling into the hands of twenty-four Jews, is in hell today. The Roman Church today is aiding and abetting the hellward trend under the Bolsheviks of Russia, so that the Greek Church may become so discouraged and so completely wrecked that Rome may put her hand on Russia. That is the practical conspiracy. What are you going to do about it? My friends, it is your fault that the Gospel of Jesus Christ has not been given to Russia. It is your fault that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is not given to the Jew all over the world. There are two million Jews in New York City, and just one or two little missions. That glorious people, how I love them! I love them nationally, I love them individually, I love the prophecy about them; I love the steps of that prophecy yet to be taken; I love the glorious statement that we will ultimately be established under

Jesus Christ, with Israel as the co-reigning power over this world. But we have not done our duty. We have not presented the gospel of Jesus Christ, the only method of salvation, to the Jew. He has been persecuted. That was logical. He had to be persecuted. But, my friends, he would not be persecuted if you and I, consecrated Christian men, were taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the blood of Jesus, to the Jew and offering Christ to him individually. I love the Jew individually and collectively. Let us do our duty to him.

Oh, lost Gentile and lost Jew, won't you take my Saviour? Won't you take Him who is called Jesus, your King, because you will be a member of His Bride, as well as a part of His reigning power, when He reigns supreme over this world for a thousand years?

## XV

### CHRIST IS COMING!

*“Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”—ACTS 1:11.*

**T**HE Second Coming of Christ is the greatest fact in prophetic statement. It is a fact to which all things are moving, and without which no event could proceed. If you refer to the history of man, and are a close student, you can write that history in one word—“failure.” If each person now living could write a volume about the history of man, and all the volumes were put into one room and the door locked, you could write across the door the words, “The Compilation of the World’s Failures.” You would have a complete history that could not be altered.

Take the first instance, the beautiful surroundings in which Adam and Eve found themselves—a setting pronounced perfect so far as conditions and capabilities for happiness and success were concerned. Yet even under such conditions they failed absolutely.

Pass from that period to another—into a system, complicated and sinful beyond description, which at the end was washed away.

Commencing another period, and sweeping across other centuries, we see a people surrounded by laws, governed by rules and directed by customs, taught by direct ministration of God, yet an utter failure!

When Christ came into existence as God's Incarnate Son, He came for the specific purpose of redeeming man, not for the purpose of correcting man's failures, or glossing over the crimes he had committed. But, admitting man's miserable failures, his total depravity, his utter inability to emancipate himself or lift himself from the bondage, curse of sin and the judgment of damnation, Christ, Very God of Very God,—the Son of God—came in the form of a human being, clothed in the form of this monumental failure, so that He might lift that lost and helpless human soul back to God.

Christ divested Himself of invisibility and clothed Himself in flesh, but not to remain in that state. He came to establish His Father's kingdom. When He presented Himself to His chosen people, they refused Him and His kingdom—another evidence of man's miserable failure. After they refused Him and the kingdom, He established His Church on earth to take form and develop in the period lying between His Ascension and His Second Coming. The Church is here for a specific purpose, and that purpose is to present Christ, the Redeemer, to a lost world; to present the hope and



fact of His Second Coming to the world, and to watch and wait for that coming and be in readiness to receive Him when He comes.

After Christ's 'resurrection and ascension, the Church was left with the outstanding, powerful, controlling, dynamic doctrine of His Second Coming. It never really lost that doctrine, but, as early as 325 A. D. began to eliminate it from its teachings. When the Church believes that doctrine and teaches it, it is blessed. When the Church eliminates it from its teachings, to that extent it loses its power and becomes impotent to do the work that God purposed it should do.

Should the doctrine of the Second Coming be magnified? Not out of proper proportion. But, you cannot preach any one of the great doctrines and leave that of Christ's Second Coming out, any more than you can leave the main spring out of your watch and expect it to keep time. You cannot preach the Incarnation of Christ and stop there; because if you do you dishonor Christ, deprive yourself of blessings, and paralyze the arm of power the Church receives through the acceptance and proclamation of this doctrine.

For the first three hundred years following Christ's Ascension, when the whole program He taught while on earth was presented, the Church was blessed. When the Church began to select and delete doctrines, she lost power. I refer you to history. There is not a pulpit in the world possess-

ing the power to leave out the doctrine of Christ's Second Coming. In the New Testament there are scores of references to this doctrine. Why, in writing the New Testament, does God mention this truth so many times? Why, in the Old Testament, does every book except two refer not only to the First, but also to the Second Coming of Christ? One might cite more than one reason why, if such were the case, references occur to the First coming only, in the Old Testament. But, mark this: God would not have permitted the inspired writers to write the Old Testament had they eliminated His instructions regarding the Second Coming.

In the Bible there is a complete cycle of events. Christ was! He came! He went! He is! He is coming! He will go back!

Another fact: Why did the angels appear to the disciples on Olivet and say to them, "Why stand ye gazing up into heaven?" What, in modern language, they said to them was: "Go about your business. Begin to preach. He is coming again in the same manner in which you have seen Him pass out of your sight." There must have been, there must be, a reason for all this. There is. The reason lies in the fact, in the hope, in the finished program of God.

Why is this doctrine so essential? Because the whole question of the infallibility of Holy Scripture is lodged in it. Christ would not have risen from the dead if it were not for the logical se-

quence that His Coming again to the earth furnishes. There is not a pre-millennialist on earth who doubts the credibility of the Scriptures. One of the greatest exponents of Unitarianism said, not long ago, "The doctrine of pre-millennialism is a fact if we admit the infallibility of the Bible." He was honest enough to say that. What are the rationalists trying to do? Not to destroy the pre-millennial doctrine, but to destroy the infallibility of the Bible. The infallibility of the Bible is the battleground of the theological world.

Every well-informed, conscientious, devout believer in this, and other Bible doctrines, is an earnest worker for the salvation of the world. All the great evangelists have been, and are, true to this doctrine, because, after Christ presented the question and testified that He would return, He said, "Watch; I am coming again. Watch and work." You are compelled to be an evangelist if you believe in your heart that Christ is coming again. If you thought He might come today, you would want your house in order, and your work ready for His inspection. You would want to have your books ready for the trial balance of the Auditor of the Universe. You would want to be at your post of duty to honor and to please Him. This doctrine implies cleanliness, purity, honor, righteousness, and provides the incentive for so living. The whole life of a true follower of the Lord is centered in an expectancy of Christ's Sec-

ond Coming. If you knew He were coming you would be preaching, praying, and giving that some soul might be snatched as a brand from the burning.

So much for the facts of His coming. What about the program? The text tells us that He is coming in like manner as He departed. That is, in the same body in which He ascended to God—a body you can see and handle, and that is perfectly tangible to you. It will be a visible, tangible, real appearance.

Several things must first take place. There are teachers who tell us He may come at any moment. I agree that Christ could come, today, and lift me up, but Christ is not coming to the earth *with* me until certain things and prophecies have been fulfilled. When He comes for the redeemed, three things will take place.

I. The Christian dead will be raised by Christ. That is, the dead who died looking for His coming and who were redeemed by Him.

II. The redeemed living on earth will be immediately changed and given a spiritual, glorified body, just like that of those raised from the dead.

III. Together they will rise to meet Christ in the air, be greeted by Him, and dwell with Him.

The Bible states that, following that event, the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy begins, and at the end of that time Christ will bring the Church back to the earth with Him, and that for ten centu-



ries she will reign with Him on earth. Then, after He has finished the work of judging the nations, and at the completion of a thousand years, He is going to take the redeemed back to the new heaven, the everlasting, permanent abode, where they will be together for ever and ever.

Our duty, then, is to watch and work, evangelize America and the world—if our Lord tarry long enough. But, should He not tarry, we should be ready to present to Him a record that is without spot or blemish, a life of service, a life of loyalty, a life of power that has no weakness in it because it is built on a belief in the whole Scripture.

Christ does not say “Work, for you will be dead tomorrow,” but “Work, for I am coming.” In other words, Christ’s Second Coming is the boundary that He places to service.

I am not going to discuss the signs of His coming. There are sufficient signs all about us to indicate that we are in the midst of the period immediately prior to that in which some of these events are to take place. The world would not be in such a restless condition if certain things were not about ready to occur. There is awful pain, famine, and indescribable restlessness and uncertainty almost everywhere. The world’s greatest crisis is yet to come, and it cannot be ushered in until the Son of God instructs the angels to sound the trumpet in order that He may gather the Church to Himself before the crash comes, the

crash that will be heard and felt from the pits of hell to the throne of God. The world is pregnant. It is going to pass through hell, and that at a time not far distant. Be ready! Christ is coming!

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